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A YEAR OF BLESSINGS,

AND

A BLESSED YEAR.

COMPILED BY
ROSE PORTER,

AUTHOR OF "SUMMER DRIFTWOOD," "WINTER FIRE," ETC.

41



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ANSON D. F. RANDOLPH & COMPANY.

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"Oh, that Thou wouldest bless me indeed; and that Thou wouldest keep me from evil.

"And God granted him that which he requested."—I CHRON. iv. 10.



A YEAR OF BLESSINGS,

AND

A BLESSED YEAR.

JANUARY I.

"God Almighty bless thee, and give thee the blessing of Abraham."—GEN. xxviii. 3-4.

"Abraham was the friend of God! Rise to the consciousness of your exalted rank as sharing his blessing.

"Blessed, thrice blessed are they who, at the hour when their earthly warfare—their spiritual conflict is closing, receive the benediction, 'Blessed are ye.' 'Sit down with Abraham, in the kingdom of your Father.'"

Macduff.

JANUARY 2.

"Lord, Thou art God. Now, therefore, let it please Thee to bless the house of Thy servant."—
1 CHRON. xvii. 26, 27.

"Remember home ties and home duties stand far beyond all others; and they consist in doing the daily duties of life cheerfully, even when they look very dull, because Love is written upon them; and in clothing all one's words and actions with love when nature feels cold and unlovely. These are the hours when we must try to reflect God's light, and give warmth to others."

Anon.

JANUARY 3.

"Thou blessest, O Lord, and it shall be blessed forever."—I CHRON. xvii. 27.

"All work must be done very simply and quietly, because God puts it into our hands to do, and then He will undoubtedly bless it. Do not allow yourself to feel overwhelmed with work.

"God hast sent you to do it, and no one else. He will give you all the strength you need to enable you to do it rightly. My God shall supply all your need."

H. Monsell.

JANUARY 4.

"Serve the Lord, and rejoice with trembling. Blessed are they that put their trust in Him."—Ps. ii. 11, 12.

"Trust Him; trust Him about every one and everything, for all times and all needs; earth and heaven, the conquest of sin, the growth of holiness, the cross that chafes, the grace that stirs. To trust God honors and glorifies Him."

Thorold.

JANUARY 5.

"Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of Life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love Him."—James i. 12.

"Think how the blessedness of that world of unbroken rest will be enhanced by the trials and struggles, the tossings and tribulations which went before; when life's tempestuous sea, wherein faith and fortune were oft well-nigh shipwrecked, is exchanged for that haven of peace, where not one wave of trouble is ever after to roll!"

Macduff.

JANUARY 6.

"Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled."—MATT. v. 6.

"Since 'to the hungry soul every bitter thing is sweet,' so even the bitter herbs at the Lord's table are accepted; and deep sorrow itself has its joy, if it but bring us nearer to Christ.

"That nearness is the blessing of sorrow,"

Anon

JANUARY 7.

"Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord, that delighteth greatly in His commandments."—Ps. cxii. 1.

"'The love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost, which is given unto us,' and hence we delight greatly in the Lord, for so long as the Holy Spirit poureth His love into our hearts we are safe. Therefore, love stands first among the blessed fruits of the Spirit—love, joy, peace, and the rest."

JANUARY 8.

"Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth."—MATT. v. 5.

"Only have faith in this, and thou wilt live high above the rewards and punishments of that spectral giant which men call society. Be found with thine own conscience in that circle of duties which widens ever, till it enfolds all beings and touches the throne of God."

Mrs. Child.

"Be noble! and the nobleness that lies
In other men, sleeping, but not dead,
Will rise in majesty to meet thine own."

JANUARY 9.

"Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the Lord thy God, which He hath given thee."—DEUT. xvi. 17.

"You must, in a certain sense, reward God. You can not give Him money, for the silver and gold, the cattle upon a thousand hills are His already. But you can give Him your heart. And as old Henry says, 'Thanksgiving is good, but thanks-living is better.'"

JANUARY 10.

"Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb."—Rev. xix. 9.

"Remember, if only we can bear the trial of delay and accept the judgment which lays bare our true condition, we shall, in due time, hear in our souls the Voice which reveals blessings through trial, and crowns endurance with the fullness of joy."

Westcott.

JANUARY II.

"God made promise, saying, Surely blessing I will bless thee."—HEB. vi. 13, 14.

"God is just in His ways with all men; but He is also wise and kind; and knowing us better than we know ourselves, and whenever we can be safely trusted with pastures that are green and waters that are still in the way of earthly blessing, the Good Shepherd leads us there."

Thorold.

JANUARY 12.

"Since the people began to bring the offerings into the house of the Lord, the Lord hath blessed His people."—2 CHRON. xxxi. 10.

Remember,-

"It is not life upon Thy gifts to live,

But to grow fixed with deeper roots in Thee;

And when the sun and shower their bounties give,

To send out thick-leaved limbs, a fruitful tree,

Whose green head meets the eye for many a mile!"

Fonas Very.

JANUARY 13.

"Blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed."—JOHN XX. 29.

"Here lies the central lesson of the revelation of our Risen Lord—the revelation of His spiritual presence—the revelation of man's spiritual sight.

"The truest, serenest faith is within our reach. The last event of the Gospel record holds our special blessing."

Anon.

JANUARY 14.

"Blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it."—LUKE xi. 28.

"Endure and dare, true heart, through patience joined with boldness, come we at a crown encircled with thousand blessings."

Spanish Proverb.

JANUARY 15.

"Christ came, who is over all, God blessed forever."—Rom. ix. 5.

"Is not this blessed news? He who brings us into the valley of the shadow of death' is the same of whom it is said, 'Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.'

"And this is the news of the Gospel. And the only good news that will sustain and help us when we are encompassed with the sorrows of this stormy human life."

Kingsley.

JANUARY 16.

"Blessed is the man who, going through the valley of Baca, make it a well."—Ps. lxxxiv. 5, 6.

"Were you never not merely puzzled, but crushed and sickened at moments by the mystery of evil?

"And then—has there not come to you, that for which your spirit was athirst—and you know whatever else is unholy, there is an Holy One, spotless and undefiled, serene and self-contained. Ah! the blessing of this."

Anon.

JANUARY 17.

"Whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, that man shall be blessed in his deed."—
JAMES i. 25.

Remember,-

"Good deeds are very fruitful; out of one good action of ours the Lord produces a thousand, the harvest whereof is perpetual."

Bishop Hall.

"Live golden days, fruitful of golden deeds."

Milton.

JANUARY 18.

"The Spirit and the bride say, Come"; "blessed are they that do His commandments."—REV. xxii. 17, 14.

"Listen to-day to the many-toned Voice of the Beloved inviting you to flee to the Clefts in the Rock.

"There, safe, secure—at rest forever with the blessed consciousness of all the elevating, ennobling privileges to which Christ's bleeding love has exalted you; may it be yours to say in the triumphant words of the Psalmist, 'Thou hast also given me the Shield of Thy salvation, and Thy right hand hath holden me up, and Thy gentleness hath made me great.'"

Macduff.

JANUARY 19.

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God."—MATT. v. 8.

"Surely this is a blessing we can not too often ponder—in connection with it, think to-day—'that though the fall has left us blind, we can still hear the Voice of God in the soul.' Yes, we know His Voice, though we can not see His shape.

"But it will not always be so. The blessing of faith shall be crowned by the blessing of fruition. The Risen Christ will fulfil His own benediction—the pure in heart will see God."

Anon.

JANUARY 20.

"Blessed be God, who hath delivered His servants that trusted in Him."—DAN. iii. 28.

"Lord, grant that we may trust in Thee,

May ours this blessing be.
Oh, give the pure and lowly heart,
A temple meet for Thee."

Keble.

JANUARY 21.

"Blessed be God, who hath begotten us unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ to an inheritance incorruptible."—I PET. i. 3-4.

"Who can form a picture of the transcendent bliss, when Christ shall consecrate forevermore from the everlasting throne the relationships formed here on earth. Fashioned like unto the glorious body of Christ they shall indeed be, but they will retain all that constituted their former identity. Such is the happiness of individual love beyond the grave, for which our nature longs, and to which, through the glorious miracle of the resurrection, we shall rise."

Macmillan.

JANUARY 22.

"Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples."—MATT. xxvi. 26.

Remember it is thus that now "Christ draws near to us when we are bidden to draw near to Him at His holy table, and there gives us back, with His blessing, the offerings which we have brought to Him.

"So, too, He draws near to us, as we go in and out in the fulfilment of our common duties; near to us when we reassemble in our homes; near to us at the time of joy; near at the time of trial. Oh! blessed companionship."

Westcott.

JANUARY 23.

"Dwell in the land—the land of blessings—and verily thou shalt be fed."—Ps. xxxvii. 3.

"What land is that? The land of righteousness. Here you may dwell in quiet obedience; here God comes to bless you; here He will feed you with spiritual food—with His Word; with His grace. Turn not away from the blessings of the land."

Keble.

JANUARY 24.

"Blessed is the man whom Thou choosest, and causest to approach unto Thee, that he may dwell in Thy courts."—Ps. lxv. 4.

Remember,-

"The Heavenly Shepherd is leading you in the right way to His own blessed fold. Leave all to Him—to His faithfulness, His love, His power, His watchful, sleepless care."

"This prison where thou art,
Thy God will break it soon,
And flood with light thy heart,
In His own blessed noon."

Gerhardt.

JANUARY 25.

"For a blessing is in it."—Is. lxv. 8.

"Oh, blest the soul, whose lips of faith can say, In the storm lulls of grief, 'Thy will be done.' Oh, blest the soul that trusts that Holy One."

Kimball,

Can you thus say, Do you listen for "the murmured blessing sorrow always brings"?

JANUARY 26.

"I will be with thee, and will bless thee."—GEN. xxvi. 3.

"Blessed assurance, 'I will be with thee,' hence we can never know a sorrow into which the Son of Man can not enter; and we can never understand the depth and preciousness of His sympathy till we come to need it.

"'I have had a very deep wound,' says Lady Powerscourt; 'the trial has been very severe, but how should I have known Christ as a brother born for adversity without it?'"

Letters of Lady Powerscourt.

JANUARY 27.

"Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you."—MATT. xxv. 34.

"Perfect rest, in perfect work; that surely is the rest of blessed spirits.

"Death is not death if it brings us nearer to Christ. No, death is not death, for Christ has conquered death for Himself, and for them who trust in Him."

Kingsley.

JANUARY 28.

"Bless the Lord, O my soul."-Ps. civ. 35.

"There are blessed hopes, therefore bless God. Yes, to the believer, true it is that God liveth, that 'at the evening time there shall be light'; if not in this world, then in a better.

"Remember, it is but a single step from the darkness of death into the light of immortality."

Boyd.

JANUARY 29.

"The Lord liveth, in truth, in righteousness, and in judgment, and the nations shall bless themselves in Him, and in Him shall they glory."—
JER. iv. 2.

"Yea, the Lord hath prepared blessedness and joy for thee, where Christ is the Sun, the Life, and the All in All."

Anon.

JANUARY 30.

"Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ."—2 COR. i. 3.

"Commit yourself to your blessed Redeemer, and have hope in His cross.

"Seek ye first—that is above all other things—the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all other blessings shall be added to you.

"Has it not been so all your life long unto this day?"

Reble.

JANUARY 31.

"Thus saith the Lord, 'Keep ye judgment and do justice.' Blessed is the man that doeth this."
—Is. lvi. 1, 2.

Remember,

"There is a blessing wrapped up for you in every lowly duty, and if you despise its homely dress, the loss and the responsibility are your own.

> "Arise! and on thy future way, His blessing with thee be."

Anon.

FEBRUARY I.

"They which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham."—GAL. iii. 9.

"This text opens new realms of thought to the soul. As we repeat it we seem to enter within the veil. The seen and the unseen, earth and heaven, are united in a spiritual fellowship. We feel something of the infinite depth of life which is contained in the words, 'I am the God of Abraham and Isaac and Jacob.' I am the God: the existence, the possibility of this divine covenant is our promise of undying life."

Westcott.

FEBRUARY 2.

"Is the seed yet in the barn? Yea, as yet the vine, and the fig-tree, and the pomegranate hath not brought forth: from this day I will bless you."

—HAG. ii. 19.

"He will bless your work! What a promise, the blessing of God. Enfolded by that blessing, you can do it, even if it be spiritual work. He has called you, and He will help you. Only trust to Him, and remember that it is not you who do it, but He who does the work through you."

H. Monsell.

FEBRUARY 3.

"The Lord shall greatly bless thee, if thou carefully hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God."—DEUT. xv. 4, 5.

"Be careful how you turn your blessings into burdens; if He calls you to suffer, believe that you could not do your work rightly or as safely if you had not had the blessing of chastening."

Anon.

FEBRUARY 4.

"Blessed is every one that feareth the Lord: that walketh in His ways."—Ps. cxxviii. 1.

"There is nothing that will impart true joy to the soul but a believing personal appropriation of the blessings of salvation. And there is nothing to hinder you from making this blessing your own.

"Come and let us join ourselves to the Lord in an everlasting covenant that shall not be forgotten."

Anon.

FEBRUARY 5.

"Blessed be the Lord, who teacheth my hands to war, and my fingers to fight."—Ps. cxliv. 1.

"God would impress upon us in our spiritual conflicts and spiritual advancements our dependence on Him; that if we reach the heavenly inheritance this will be our confession on every retrospect of the earthly battle-field, 'We got not possession of the land by our own sword, neither did our own arm save us. But Thy right hand and Thine arm, and the light of Thy countenance.'"

Macduff.

FEBRUARY 6.

"The Lord wilt bless the righteous: with favor wilt Thou compass him as with a shield."—Ps. v. 12.

"Look to God for blessing, and you will surely have it. As He bore you and carried you in the days of old, so will He now, and even unto the end, however distant that may be."

Anon.

FEBRUARY 7.

"Blessed is the man that keepeth the Sabbath."

—Is. lvi. 2.

"The Lord's day, being the remembrance of a great blessing, must be a day of joy and spiritual thanksgiving, and therefore it is a proper work of the day to recount the great works of God, and to remember His mercies.

"We truly rejoice in God when we make our neighbors, the poor members of Christ, rejoice with us."

J. Taylor.

FEBRUARY 8.

"Who shall ascend unto the hill of the Lord? He that hath clean hands and a pure heart, he shall receive the blessing from the Lord."—Ps. xxiv. 3-5.

"It is a blessed thing to see Christ with up-sun, and to read over your papers and soul accounts with fair morning daylight."

Rutherford.

FEBRUARY 9.

"Whosoever shall give to drink a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward."—MATT. x. 42.

"Blessed is the man that doeth this, and the son of man that layeth hold on it."—ISA. lvi. 2.

"Our thought is never more than a cup-full of God's truth, yet therein is a blessing promised to him who brings a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple."

Newman Smyth.

FEBRUARY 10.

"This is the blessing of Judah, let his hands be sufficient for him."—DEUT. xxxiii. 7.

God grant it may be your blessing too.

"When thy hand hath done a good deed, ask thy heart if it be well done; the matter of a good action is the deed done; the form of a good action is the manner of the doing; in the first, another hath the comfort, and thou the glory; in the other, thou hast the comfort, and God the glory; that deed is ill done wherein God is no sharer."

Enchiridion.

FEBRUARY II.

"The Lord hath been mindful of us. He will bless us."—Ps. cxv. 12.

Have you not found this promise true? "You love God; you walk upon the sea; the swellings of this world are under your feet; you find calm in the midst of tempest; every man's own besetting sin is the tempest. And why is this? All because the Lord is mindful. Remember when your heart fluctuates with the desire of sin, then call on Christ, that you may conquer the desire."

Anselm.

FEBRUARY 12.

"My mouth shall speak the praises of the Lord, and let all flesh bless His holy name for ever and ever."—Ps. cxlv. 21.

Remember, "you must hold intercourse with God, or your soul will die. You must walk with God, or Satan will walk with you. You must grow in grace or you will lose it; and you can not do this but by appropriating to this object a due portion of your time, and diligently employing suitable means."

Cecil.

FEBRUARY 13.

"Blessed are ye when men shall hate you, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil for the Son of Man's sake."—LUKE vi. 22.

"You have but one thing to fear, and that is, lest the kingdom of God should be taken from you; and this kingdom of God is faith ruling in the heart.

"Blessed are they whose eyes behold that kingdom."

Finelon.

FEBRUARY 14.

"Mercy and truth shall go before Thy face. Blessed is the people that know the joyful sound: they shall walk, O Lord, in the light of Thy countenance."—Ps. lxxxix. 14, 15.

Remember,

"If in a time of great darkness we yet perceive God to guide us by the lantern of His providence, it is good to follow the light close, lest we lose it by lagging behind."

Fuller.

FEBRUARY 15.

"The Lord shall open unto thee His good treasure, the heaven to give the rain unto thy land in his season, and to bless all the work of thy hand."
—Deut, xxviii. 12.

"His law will bind thee; His goodness will comfort thee; His grace will bless thee. Then faith and penitence and prayer and worship will satisfy thee, for they will be the supreme realities of your life."

H. J. Van Dyke.

FEBRUARY 16.

"The just man walketh in his integrity; his children are blessed after him."—PROV. xx. 7.

"Integrity is godliness, and godliness is the tendency of the mind towards God, and is exercised in believing in Him, loving and fearing Him, holding communion with Him, and employing ourselves in His service, and consecrating all that we do to His honor."

Jay.

FEBRUARY 17.

"Bless the Lord, ye that do His commandments, hearkening unto the voice of His Word."—Ps. ciii. 20.

"The blessed Voice which comforts by the hope of eternal blessing. Ah! think of the blessings that Voice describes—blessings distributed by the Hand of God, and which He gives us even now.

"Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gifts."

Anon.

FEBRUARY 18.

"Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted."—MATT. v. 4.

"We glory in tribulation." "What new tears are these," says Saint Augustine, "which make those happy who shed them?

"Their blessedness consists in this, they are the signs of grief for sin. Blessed tears which grace draws forth! which lessen our desire for temporal things, and increase our desire after eternal good,"

St. Augustine.

FEBRUARY 19.

"I will bless the Lord at all times; I sought the Lord and He heard me."—Ps. xxxiv. 1, 4.

"Lord, teach us to pray. Give unto me, Thy child, the blessings I know not how to ask.

'Teach me to pray, for 'even a blessing, blessing needs, to make it blessedness.'"

Anon.

FEBRUARY 20.

"Blessed are ye that hunger now, for ye shall be filled."—LUKE vi. 21.

"Truth and righteousness are the spirit's food. Every one receives that holy food according to the measure of his desire for it.

"Let us be before God as one who begs and seeks for a morsel of bread; 'Give us this day our daily bread.' Bread which strengthens the soul, for everything which befalls us in the course of the day."

Fenelon.

FEBRUARY 21.

"Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the Lord."—Ps. cxix. 1.

"Human innocence is not to know evil! Christian saintliness is to know evil and good, and prefer good.

"You can not manufacture a voice of conscience out of expediency; the voice of conscience says not, It is better not to do so; but—'thou shalt not.'"

F. W. Robertson.

FEBRUARY 22.

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy hath regenerated us unto a lively hope, by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."—
I PETER i. 3.

"'Christ in us the hope of glory.' This is no dream, no fable, but a blessed reality. There is not a power which He exercised; there is not a quality which He manifested, in His earthly ministry, which He is not exercising and manifesting to-day in the hearts of men."

H. J. Van Dyke.

FEBRUARY 23.

"Blessed be ye poor."—LUKE vi. 20.

"Consider that the blessings in the Holy Scripture are never given to the rich, but to the poor. I never find 'Blessed be the rich,' or 'Blessed be the noble,' but 'Blessed be the meek,' and 'Blessed be the poor,' and 'Blessed be the mourners, for they shall be comforted'; and yet, O God, most carry themselves so, as if they not only not desired but even feared to be blessed."

Herbert.

FEBRUARY 24.

"Thou shalt give unto the Lord thy God according as the Lord thy God hath blessed thee."—
DEUT. xvi. 10.

"When men do anything for God, the very least thing, they never know where it will end, nor what amount of work it will do for Him. Love's secret, therefore, is to be always doing things for God, and not to mind because they are very little ones."

Faber.

FEBRUARY 25.

"Such as be blessed of Him, shall inherit the earth."—Ps. xxxvii. 22.

"Virtue, wisdom, goodness, and real worth, like the loadstone, never lose their power. These are the true graces, each yielding a blessing, which are linked hand in hand, because it is by their influence that human hearts are so firmly united to each other."

Burton.

FEBRUARY 26.

"The Lord will bless His people with peace."
—Ps. xxix. 11.

"The blessing of the religious man is an easy and portable blessing, such a one as he carries about in his bosom, without alarming either the eye or the envy of the world. A man putting all his blessings into the one, 'Love God,' 'Love thy neighbor,' is like a traveller's putting all his goods into one jewel,—the value is the same, and the convenience the greater."

South.

FEBRUARY 27.

"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His Holy Name."—Ps. ciii. 1.

"I would ever awake with God; my first thoughts are for Him who hath made the night for rest, and the day for work, and who hath blessed both. If my heart be early seasoned with His Presence, it will savor of Him all the day."

Anon.

FEBRUARY 28.

"Blessed is the man whom Thou chastenest, O Lord, and teachest him out of Thy law."—Ps. xciv. 12.

"The truly good and great in affliction bear a countenance more princely than they are wont: for it is the temper of the highest heart, like the palmtree, to strive most upward when it is most burdened."

S. P. Sidney.

FEBRUARY 29.

"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy."—MATT. v. 7.

"Mercy is like the rainbow which God set in the Heavens as a remembrance to man. We must not look for it after night, it shines not in the other world. If we refuse mercy here, we must have justice in eternity."

Anon.

MARCH I.

"Blessed is he that waiteth."-DAN. xii. 12.

"Working or waiting, our souls will hang on Him. And waiting, as we must recognize and remember, is a sacrifice of self, a real martyrdom, no less than working. To win the soul in patience, to bear the trial of delay, to watch for the dawn through the chill hours which precede it, to keep fresh and unsullied the great hope that Christ will come, is a witness to the powers of the unseen world, which the Spirit of God alone can make possible."

Westcott.

MARCH 2.

"The memory of the just is blessed. The hope of the righteous shall be gladness."—Prov. x. 7, 28.

"Blessed are we if when we go to the grave of another, we can contract our mind to the small estate that awaits ourselves beside it, and give our souls to nobler thoughts and cares than those which usually possess us; for in such a case we shall find the immortal fragrance that comes from the grave where the Rose of Sharon reposed, and plant a garden around the sepulchre whose everlasting flowers shall blossom from the dust."

Macmillan.

MARCH 3.

"I am the God of Abraham. Fear not, for I am with thee, and will bless thee."—GEN. xxvi. 24.

"Our blessed Lord 'took on Him the seed of Abraham.' He condescended to be like us in all things. He subjected Himself to the changes of life—as joy after sorrow, rest after toil. He endured temptation. And all this He did for our sakes—for a token and earnest of love."

Anon.

MARCH 4.

"Blessed is the man that endureth temptation."—JAMES i. 12.

"Thinking of blessings, I am persuaded there is a blessing in every snare, if we make use of the blessing, and cherish it, and roll the snare on Him.

"Then let us enjoy our wilderness blessings—joy in sorrow, calm in storm."

Powerscourt.

MARCH 5.

- "O bless our God."-Ps. 1xvi. 8.
- "He will have compassion upon us."—MICAH vii. 19.

"Wherein is the blessedness of those that mourn? Christ says, in being comforted, in the victory of their faith, in the endurance of love, trust, and patience; remember until we are thus comforted in our hours of sorrow we are not one with our Leader, nor in communion with our Father's Spirit. No one will suppose that the blessing of affliction consists in the suffering it brings. It consists in the spiritual response to suffering of one whose confidence is in the Source of Love."

MARCH 6.

"O that Thou wouldest bless me indeed, and that Thou wouldest keep me from evil."—
I CHRON. iv. 10.

"The constant living and acting in God must come by degrees, getting more and more into God. First as it were entering the House of God, and then penetrating through halls and vestibules, further and further, and nearer God."

H. Monsell.

MARCH 7.

"Blessed be thou of the Lord."-RUTH iii. 10.

"Oh! what powers are in Him when He sets about blessing; when His aim is to bless, He blesses like a God; all that His house affords shall be brought forth, while the mind of the great Original, as an unfathomable mine of wealth, shall be an ever constant, ever new delight."

Powerscourt.

MARCH 8.

"The Lord is a God of judgment. Blessed are all they that wait for Him."—Is. xxx. 18.

"Sit down and fix your thoughts on things above, and forget all the little vain passages of this life, and then your soul by thought will softly and sweetly ascend to Heaven on the wings of the Holy Dove and dwell with God, till it returns, like the useful bee, loaded with a blessing and the dew of heaven."

J. Taylor.

MARCH 9.

"The Lord will give strength unto His people, the Lord will bless His people with peace"; only ask Him.—Ps. xxix. 11

"Prayer is ever profitable; at night it is our covering; in the morning it is our armor. Prayer should be the key of the day, and the lock of the night. Prayer sanctifies all our actions.

"Let us pray."

Anon.

MARCH 10.

"Now let it please Thee to bless the house of Thy servant."

"O Lord God, with Thy blessing let the house of Thy servant be blessed forever."—2 SAM. vii. 29.

"Love God, and He will dwell with you. Obey God, and He will reveal the truths of His deepest teachings to your soul. Blessing, He will bless you."

F. W. Robertson.

MARCH II.

"Blessed are ye that sow beside all waters, that send forth thither the feet of the ox and the ass."

—Is, xxxii, 20.

"The blessedness of having, is being able and willing to give, for it is more blessed to give than to receive.

"'Labor,' saith St. Paul, 'that ye may have to give to him that needeth.' We can only give what we have, but there is no limit to what we may have for the asking. Blessed be God, we may comfort others by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God."

Laws of Life.

MARCH 12.

"Jesus said, Suffer the little children to come unto me, for of such is the kingdom of Heaven. And He took them up in His arms, and put His hands upon them, and blessed them."—MARK x. 14, 16.

"Blessed are ye if ye become as a little child, for a child is the visible likeness of the Lord Himself, and there is blessedness in perceiving this truth; the blessing is the truth itself. He who sees the essential in the child, the pure childhood, sees the essence of grace and truth; in a word, real child-likeness."

MacDonald.

MARCH 13.

"Jesus saith, Blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed."—JOHN XX 29.

"To whom shall a man, whom the blessed Lord hath made, look for all he needs, but to that blessed Lord, our God, in whom we will trust; our knowledge, like our sight, limited now—yet bounded by the blessed promise, what we see not now, what we know not now, we shall know hereafter."

Anon.

MARCH 14.

"Bless the Lord, O my soul; I will sing unto the Lord as long as I live."—Ps. civ. 1, 33.

"God is a great God, and therefore He will be sought. He is a good God, and therefore He will be found.

"The breath of prayer comes from the life of faith. And they that spend their days in faith and prayer, shall end their days in peace and comfort."

7. Mason.

MARCH 15.

"Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord."
—REV. xiv. 13.

"Let us consider that Heaven is our country as well as this. A great multitude of our dear ones are there, longing that we may come to their sight, to that joy which will be common to us and to them, to that full and perpetual pleasure which is There, where the Lamb is the light thereof."

Bede.

MARCH 16.

"Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein."—REV. i. 3.

"How blessed it is to ponder and know the character of Him with whom we have to do. Pitiful, tender, full of compassion, keeping mercy, plenteous redemption.

"We have no idea of His longing to bless; with Him all must be loving, because He is love. All must be wise, because He is wisdom."

Powerscourt.

MARCH 17.

"Blessed is the man whose Hope the Lord is."

—JER. xvii. 7.

"Blessed thought! There is nothing which belongs more to the resurrection than Hope! 'Begotten again to a lively Hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.'

"It is in the power of this Hope, which is the power of the resurrection, that we can mount up with wings as eagles, can be dissociated from all around and stand aloof from all below."

Anon.

MARCH 18.

"Blessed is the man whom Thou chastenest, O Lord, and teachest him out of Thy law."—Ps. xciv. 12.

"Blessed are the souls in whom not the strength of nature only, but that of grace, has been so brought low, even to the very dust, that they have learned to call nothing that they have their own. Therefore the believer as he advances in self-knowledge learns to bless and to adorn the experience of his own weakness, which as it were serves to let daylight within his whole spiritual being."

Dora Greenwell.

MARCH 19.

"They which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham."—GAL. iii. 9.

"In all our doings, spiritual and bodily, faith must rule and reign, and the heart hold it sure and firm, that God is looking on us, holds us dear, will keep us, and not forsake us."

Tuther

"A real faith has no anxiety."

St. Ambrose.

MARCH 20.

"Blessed is the people that know the joyful sound! they shall walk, O Lord, in the light of Thy countenance."—Ps. lxxxix. 15.

"You are never so blessed that you may not be more blessed, you are never so high that you may not be higher.

"The Christian life is like a walk up a mountain, a continual ascent, and the ascent is ever marked by freshened power and joy, and the blessing is that we are called to ascend from height to height."

Anon.

MARCH 21.

"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, and the people whom He hath chosen for His own."—Ps. xxxiii, 12.

"How blessed when He takes His bit of clay, and forms it into a vessel fit for the Master's use, especially if He chooses us to be a vessel of consolation.

"Oh! what a blessing we are not left to ourselves, that when we drag the skein of our life into tangles, mercy will sit down patiently to unravel."

Powerscourt.

MARCH 22.

"Blessed are they that do His commandments."

—Rev. xxii. 14.

"'The doer shall be blessed in his deed.' We know that God ordains the lot; and to meet it with the energies it requires and permits, this is what we have to do. Service, happiness, guidance, is lawful mastery in this world, and this is a power in itself so divine that it always makes itself felt.

"If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them."

Thom.

MARCH 23.

"Blessed are the meek."-MATT. v. 5.

"Who are the meek? Where is meekness seen? Where is there scope for manifesting it? There is no scope, except in circumstances of provocation; to feel kindly when all speak well of us, and no cross incident harasses us, is not meekness at all. But when we are sorely tried. How is it with us then? Are we then the blessed meek?"

Anon.

MARCH 24.

"Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God, and our Saviour Jesus Christ."—TITUS ii. 13.

"If we would become heavenly-minded, we must let the imagination realize the blessedness to which we are moving on. Let it calm you, and ennoble you, and give you cheerfulness to endure.

"Let us think much of rest, the rest which is deep as summer midnight, yet full of life and force as summer sunshine."

F. W. Robertson.

MARCH 25.

"Thus saith the Lord that made thee, I will pour water on him that is thirsty, I will pour my Spirit and my blessing."—Is. xliv. 2, 3.

"'Ask and it shall be given you.' What a blessedness to speak to God in confidence, to open the heart to Him, and to be brought intimately near Him in prayer. Happy is the soul which is blessed in prayer by the presence of God."

Fenelon.

MARCH 26.

"The Lord thy God blesseth thee, as He promised."—DEUT, xv. 6.

"One leper only waits to cast himself at the feet of Jesus and worship Him.

"Let that one leper be the type of the soul to whom the whole blessedness of a blessing from Christ has come."

Even the type of your soul!

Phillips Brooks.

MARCH 27.

"A faithful man shall abound with blessings."
—Prov. xxviii. 20.

"When thou seest misery in thy brother's face, let him see mercy in thine eye; the more the oil of mercy is poured on him by thy pity, the more the oil in thy cruse shall be increased."

Anon.

"Sweet Master!

Give me to do for thee each day

Some simple, lowly, blessed task."

MARCH 28.

"Blessed is he that considereth the poor, the Lord will deliver him in time of trouble."—Ps. xli. 1.

"Such will, indeed, have their reward; they shall be recompensed at the resurrection of the just. Remember, Christ said, 'Inasmuch as ye do it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye do it unto me.' Blessed service unto Christ!"

Anon.

MARCH 29.

"Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled."—MATT. v. 6.

"Christ Himself shall fill them. 'Blessed are all they that fear the Lord, and walk in His ways, for the Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon Him. Yea, all such as call upon Him faithfully. Happy, aye, blest are such souls, let the day of the Lord appear how it will, or when it will."

Kingsley.

MARCH 30.

"The way of the Lord is strength to the upright."—Prov. x. 29.

"Blessed is every one that walketh in His ways."

—Ps. cxxviii. 1.

"Be it yours to walk in the blessed steps of Christ's most holy life! The tears which He shed on earth are earnest and types of those which He sheds with us day by day. He would not have bidden us to 'weep with those who weep,' unless He had set us the example; we never weep even in spirit but He weeps with us. Be thankful, then, if He calls you to walk with Him in a service of consolation."

Anon.

MARCH 31.

"Bless ye the Lord, all ye His hosts! Ye ministers of His that do His pleasure. Bless the Lord, all His works in all places of His dominion! Bless the Lord, O my soul."—Ps. ciii. 21–22.

"Yes, we can join our hymn of praise to that which goes up forever to God from sun and stars, clouds and showers, beasts and birds, and every living thing, giving thanks forever for His great glory."

Kingsley.

APRIL I.

"Blessed is He."-REV. xvi. 15.

"And He laid His right hand upon me, saying unto me, 'Fear not: I am He that liveth, and was dead; and behold I am alive forevermore."—REV. i. 17-18.

"A living Christ! Blessed truth. Do you believe it?

"Oh, if we could only lift up our heads and live with Him; live new lives, high lives, lives of hope, and love and holiness, to which death should be merely the letting of this life out to its completion."

Phillips Brooks.

APRIL 2.

"Blessed shalt thou be when thou comest in, and blessed shalt thou be when thou goest out."—DEUT. xxviii. 6.

"O, blessed assurance! that the Being to whom I owe every blessing I enjoy, every hope for time and for eternity, is now upon the throne, and 'all power is committed to Him both in heaven and in earth,' that nothing can resist His commands; nothing baffle His behests and purposes.

"There is no evil but His power can ward off; there is no calamity but He can arrest if He pleases."

Macduff.

APRIL 3.

"Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."—MATT. v. 3.

"Ye meek ones, rejoice; and be glad, ye poor; for yours is the kingdom of God, obeying and walking in the truth.

"The saints, the brighter in glory, the more humble are they, and the nigher and dearer to Me.

"In heaven, to be even the least is a great thing, where all will be great; for all shall be called the children of God."

A Kempis.

APRIL 4.

"Blessed are they that keep His testimonies, and that seek Him with the whole heart."—Ps. cxix. 2.

"Those who thus seek 'know the love of Christ which passeth knowledge.' They know Him, and the power of His resurrection, the fellowship of His suffering.

"O, blessed learning! above all that schoolmen have written or taught. For this is life eternal to know Thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent."

Anna Warner.

APRIL 5.

"And He led them out; and He lifted up His hands and blessed them."—LUKE xxiv. 50.

"He led out 'past the scene of the agony and the weeping'; and then, the apparent removal calls out a blessing never before given. It was made plain how it was expedient that He should go away. By that very return to the Father His presence was made sovereign over all limits of time and place. We can claim it and enjoy it, if we but bring before our souls the living image of His divine benediction."

Anon.

APRIL 6.

'While He blessed them, He parted from them, and was carried up into Heaven."—LUKE xxiv. 51.

"The last act of Christ was an act of blessing. The last revelation of Christ was the elevation of the temporal into the eternal, beyond sight and yet with the assurance of an unbroken fellowship.

"That blessing, that revelation are for us, the unchanged and unchangeable bequest of the Risen Lord. His hands are stretched out still in blessing. His Spirit is still hovering about us. And remember, His work is still waiting to be accomplished."

Westcott.

APRIL 7.

"Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honor, and glory, and blessing."—REV. v. 12.

"Consider, the blessed spirits of just men made perfect confess that they are nothing, but that Christ is all; that they have nothing, but that they owe all to Christ. Ponder it, and the more you consider it, the more blessed depth of teaching will you find therein. Even so should we adore Him who alone is worthy of glory, and honor, and praise, and thanksgiving."

Kingsley.

APRIL 8.

"Blessed are those servants whom the Lord when He cometh shall find watching."—LUKE xii. 37.

"A watching-time may be needed before 'the why and the wherefore' of His dealings are made manifest. But if, like that patriarch of the dawning Gospel dispensation, you take the promised Saviour in the arms of your faith, the day will come when you shall with him also be able to say, 'Mine eyes have seen Thy salvation.'"

Remember,—"It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the Lord."

In Christo.

APRIL 9.

"Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted."—MATT. v. 4.

"If any eyes, dim with sadder than tears of bereavement, trace these lines, do not despair. 'Cast thy burden on the Lord. He will sustain thee.'

"The promise is sure—they that seek shall find. It may be an up-hill struggle; but, at last, 'He satisfieth the longing soul."

"'The waves,' says Chrysostom, 'are many, and the storm is furious; but I fear not to be drowned, for I stand upon a Rock.'"

Anon.

APRIL 10.

"God having raised up His Son Jesus, sent Him to bless you."—Acts iii. 26.

"The Father, God in Christ, is waiting, and willing, to bless us with 'all spiritual blessings.' He gives us, so to speak, a blank cheque, saying, 'Fill it up as you please; fill it up, not for a few things, but for all things—pardon, peace, grace, holiness, strength for daily duty, light for perplexing paths, comfort in sorrow, support and victory in death.'"

Macduff.

APRIL II.

"Blessed is he who condemneth not himself in that which he alloweth."—Rom, xiv. 22.

"There is nothing in our nature, or in all the desires of our nature, certainly not in the infirmities of the flesh, which is wrong in itself, provided it keeps its place; provided what is lower does not encroach upon what is higher; provided by a choice of a worse when a better is before us, we do not forfeit the benediction, 'Blessed is he who condemneth not himself in that which he alloweth.'"

Laws of Life.

APRIL 12.

"I will bless the Lord, who hath given me counsel: my reins also—that is my heart—instruct me in the night seasons."—Ps. xvi. 7.

"An inner spiritual wisdom develops in the quiet meditation and communion with God in the night season.

"'The night season,' as some one has said, 'is the hour when believers hear the voices of the Heavenly life within themselves.'"

M. R. Vincent.

APRIL 13.

"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits; who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with loving-kindness and tender mercies."—Ps. ciii. 2-4.

"This is Bible restoration, Forgiven and brought back to life; wearing the halo of the sunshine of God's tender mercies like a crown."

Anna Warner.

"The silent joy, that sinks so deep
Of confidence and rest,
Who but a Christian, through all life
That blessing may prolong?"

APRIL 14.

"Christ said, Blessed is he whosoever shall not be offended in me."—LUKE vii. 23.

"Blessed,' so we seem to hear them say, shall be the doubting, half-believing John in his solitude and despondency, if he still holds on steadfastly, believing amidst unbelief, hoping against hope, faithful among the faithless, set free by the truth which he so sincerely sought.

"Blessed too are they who struggle against the temptations of life, and are able to feel a sustaining hope that God loves them, that Christ is cheering them."

Stanley.

APRIL 15.

"Blessed are the pure in heart."-MATT. v. 8.

"We must be pure in heart. There must be holiness, nothing unholy,—faith, hope, love, grasping the ideal, and working it out in the mind and in the life. Take a book of the Bible, and get a knowledge of it, read it, and re-read it, and God will reveal Himself. Weak faith yields weak hope. If we had strong faith we should be at peace.

"Seek faith. 'Ask and ye shall receive.'"

Anon

APRIL 16.

"Blessings are upon the head of the just."—Prov. x. 6.

"Even here, we may advance from grace to grace, and from glory to glory.

"The first step is to desire, and the second is the enlarging our faith and deepening our love; the third is the having courage to take our feet off the ground, and like the eagle fly upward, not needing to see land anywhere. All this will take time. But this does not matter, if we have faith and love and courage, and keep the desire steadfast; and remember, we are not alone, we are drawn upward of God."

H. Monsell.

APRIL 17.

"Come, ye blessed of my Father."—MATT. xxv. 34.

"It is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."—LUKE xii. 32.

"Ponder the blessed truth of the sufficiency and faithfulness of God!

"Whatever our needs, He can supply them, for He is God. He will supply them, for He is Love. Only let us believe, and our joy and blessedness shall be full. Let us honor God by trusting Him entirely. Let us be as willing to receive, as He is to bestow."

Thorold.

APRIL 18.

"The Lord shall command the blessing upon thee in thy storehouses, and in all thou settest thine hand unto."—DEUT. xxviii. 8.

"The wealth of a man is the number of things which he loves and blesses, which he is loved and blessed by.

"For amid all life's quests

There seems but worthy one—to do more good! It matters not how long we live, but how."

Festus.

APRIL 19.

"Blessed are the eyes which see the things that ye see."—LUKE x. 23.

"Blessed eyes, which see the things we see!

We as in a glass espy

The glory of His countenance,

Our dear Lord's face benign

Bent on us with transfiguring power."

Anon.

"No man is so blessed as a real Christian. How little vanity does he feel, though he believes himself united to God."

Pascal.

APRIL 20.

"The Lord thy God shall bless thee in all the works of thine hands, therefore shalt thou surely rejoice."—DEUT. xvi. 15.

"Bless me in this life with but peace of my conscience, command of my affections, the love of my dearest friends, and I shall be happy. And—dispose of me according to the wisdom of Thy pleasure, even though Thy will be done in my undoing."

Sir Thomas Browne.

APRIL 21.

"The Lord commandeth the blessing, even Life for evermore."—Ps. cxxxiii. 3.

"It is God who asks and offers; man who thinks and replies. Because He loves us, He offers to help us.

"He wants to be known as a Giver always of good things; and when Christ taught His disciples, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive,' His own blessed nature taught it Him."

The Gospel of Christ.

APRIL 22.

"Blessed is the man who maketh the Lord his trust."—Ps. xl. 4.

"The blessed thing which the Bible calls faith is a state of the soul in which the things of God become glorious certainties. It matters not how it comes, whether as to Thomas through sight, or whether through the evidence of the Spirit; and yet the faith of which Christ said, 'Blessed are they which have not seen and yet have believed,' was a spiritual faith."

F. W. Robertson.

APRIL 23.

"The blessing of the Lord, it maketh rich, and He addeth no sorrow with it." "When He giveth quietness, who then can make trouble?"—PROV. x. 22; JOB xxxiv. 29.

"How beautiful within our souls to keep
This treasure the All-merciful hath given—
Grant it hearth and home,

Quiet where'er we roam, Quiet around, within."

Hymns of the Ages.

APRIL 24.

"Rehearse the righteous acts of the Lord. Bless ye the Lord."—JUDGES v. 9, 11.

"He is a strict but a tender Master, and on the way in which He leads you, are not only crowns and thorns, but light and love, and sympathy and peace, and at the end—Heaven."

M. R. Vincent.

"The grave is but a covered bridge, leading from light to Light."

Anon.

APRIL 25.

"Bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you."—MATT. v. 44.

Remember.

"The Lord creates occasions of contest to bless us with the opportunity of victory."

A Kempis.

"Deem not that they are blest alone
Whose lives a peaceful tenor keep!
For God, who pities man, has shown
A blessing for the eyes that weep."

APRIL 26.

"Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."—MATT. v. 10.

"Great indeed is their reward, for it is no less than the beatific vision to contemplate and adore that Supreme moral beauty, of which all earthly beauty, all nature, all art, all poetry, all music are but phantoms and parables, hints and hopes, and reflected rays of the clear light of that everlasting day of which it is written, that 'the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God did lighten it.'"

Kingsley.

APRIL 27.

"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy Name."—Psa. ciii. 1.

"Oh, what a blessing it is to get right deep down into God's Word, for that Word is ever new, and the source of new thoughts to them who feed upon it. This is the Rock of yesterday, to-day, and forever. Come to it, it is all yours; every acre of the blessed land of Canaan is yours. There is not a star in the great firmament of Scripture but shines for you; not a promise but you may take it, and live upon the produce thereof."

. Spurgeon.

APRIL 28.

"The memory of the just is blessed."—Prov. x. 7.

"Blessed is the memory of those who have kept themselves unspotted from the world; yet more blessed and more dear the memory of those who have kept themselves unspotted in the world."

Mrs. Jameson.

"Remove thou thy sins, O weak believer, and thou may'st hope to see Christ thy sun."

Spurgeon.

APRIL 29.

"The wisdom that is from above is pure."—
JAMES iii. 17.

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God."—MATT. v. 8.

"The secret of the Lord is theirs, Their soul is Christ's abode."

"'The single heart is the pure heart'; the heart that knows the indwelling of Christ in the soul; and 'Christ in the soul is an inspiration.'

"Is your heart pure?"

Anon.

APRIL 30.

"Fear thou the Lord, and a good blessing shall come."—Prov. xxiv. 21, 25.

"It is not always easy to discern the will of God, but if the fountain of our life is kept pure, the water of life must flow from it, and our day's work contribute to the great stream of life that flows out from the city of God for the healing of the nations; and in this stream all our own little trials get turned into gold."

H. Monsell.

MAY I.

"Blessed shalt thou be when thou comest in, and blessed shalt thou be when thou goest out."
—Deut. xxviii. 6.

"Yet, thou must assuredly be converted into the blessedness which the Lord promises, as much as into righteousness, for there is a blessedness which consists not in pleasant associations, or joyful emotions. Give thyself in obedience to divine grace, and it will present thee one day with a crown of glory, after having previously forgiven thee all thy sin and healed all thy infirmity."

Stier.

MAY 2.

"Blessed are the meek."-MATT, v. 5.

"The Lord lifteth up the meek."-Ps. cxlvii. 6.

"The meek in the school of Jesus, for out of that meekness grows finally greatness of soul.

"The sanctified and loftiness of desire which aspires earnestly toward that which is right, and hence is blessed of the Lord."

Nitzsch.

MAY 3.

"Blessed is the man who maketh the Lord his trust."—Ps. xl. 4.

"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on Thee."—Is. xxvi. 3.

"So measureless and priceless are the blessings which the Comforter would bestow, that our Lord assures His disciples it was expedient for them that He should go away; for, Christ said, 'Unless I go away the Comforter will not come to you, but if I depart I will send Him to you.' Has this blessed Comforter come to you? Have you opened your heart to give the Holy Spirit entrance?"

J. Hare.

MAY 4.

"Thou shalt eat the labor of thine hands; thus shall the man be blessed that feareth the Lord."
—Ps. cxxviii. 2, 4.

"'Lay not up for yourselves treasures on earth.' Sow for time, and probably you will succeed in time. Sow the seeds of life—humbleness, pure-heartedness, love,—and in the long eternity which is before the soul, every minutest grain will come up again with an increase of thirty, sixty, or a hundred fold."

F. W. Robertson.

MAY 5.

"Blessed with all spiritual blessings."—Ерн. i. 3.

"When Christ was upon earth in sight, those who sought Him, might seem indeed to be kept waiting for the trial of their faith, but were sure to find Him at last; and finding Him, to find health and consolation. And so it is, even more surely, now that He is nearer to us than ever; though out of sight, His gracious invitation is, 'O tarry the Lord's leisure; be strong, and He shall comfort thine heart.'"

Keble.

MAY 6.

"God, even our God, shall bless us. God shall bless us."—Ps. lxvii. 6, 7.

"My blessing will come, I know,
Come early or late.
Hands are not lifted in vain
For Him to fill.
I will lift mine, oh, once and again,
And trust Him still."

Anon.

"Hope is the cordial of the human heart."

Burns.

MAY 7.

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort."—2 COR. i. 3.

"God is here spoken of as the source of all consolation—in His covenant relation, that is, as the 'God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Remember,—"All God's mercies, and all His comforts, come to us only through the channel provided by the plan of grace in Jesus Christ. The blessing of consolation is contained in Him, and He will give comfort to all that mourn—even the garment of praise for heaviness."

Anon.

MAY 8.

"Blessed are they that keep judgment, and he that doeth righteousness."—Ps. cvi. 3.

"Gentleness diffuses a blessed calm over the nature. Love is the atmosphere of Heaven. Long-suffering and meekness counteract all those distresses—and they are innumerable—which arise from pride, anger, and revenge. Peace is but the Scriptural name for the entire result of combined and blessed satisfactions in the heart."

J. W. Alexander.

MAY 9.

"Blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the Voice of the Lord thy God."—DEUT. xxviii. 2.

"All the blessings of the Gospel are for 'whosoever will.' Are you willing?—then they are for you.

"Very serious and reverent must you be when thus blessed. Obedient you must be, dutiful, resolved, courageous, the wings of your heart ever stretched out in act to fly swiftly wheresoever and whensoever He may send you."

Anon.

MAY IO.

"Thou hast blessed the work of his hands."—
JOB i. 10.

"Just as labor, the great curse of the world, has proved its greatest blessing, developing out of its cares and toils and duties the highest civilization of man—so He who wore the crown of thorns can bring by His gracious work of salvation good out of evil, beauty out of ashes, and by His blessing make all the needy wildernesses of the world rejoice and blossom."

Macmillan.

MAY II.

"Blessed is the man watching daily at my gates."—Prov. viii. 34.

Remember,—" Let prayers for blessings always be succeeded by praises.

"Whatever you do for the Lord, do in the name of the Lord, that is, referring to His authority, expecting His blessing, and seeking His honor."

Christian's Pocket-Book.

MAY 12.

"Bless the Lord. He triest the heart, and hast pleasure in uprightness."—I CHRON. xxix. 17, 20.

"In the path of duty, God promises His special protection; He will keep us safe and bless us. All whom God loves He employs; every saint has something to do, or suffer, for God's glory."

MAY 13.

"Blessed is he that considereth the poor: he shall be blessed upon the earth."—Ps. xli. 1, 2.

"There is nothing like the blessedness of uplifting Christianity, which like the Master goes forth to seek and to save those who are lost.

"It is in such work that the power of a living Gospel is seen, and it is such work our Lord promises to bless,"

Anon.

MAY 14.

"And He led them out as far as to Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them."—LUKE xxiv. 50.

"In all the world's history was there ever a scene so tender, so beautiful? Christ's sublime mission had been accomplished, He had been crucified, and had risen from the dead. The hour had come for His return to the Father,—it only remains to say 'Farewell,'—and 'lifting up His hands He blessed them,' and that blessing remains a blessing for Christ's followers to the end of time. It rests upon us."

J. Chaplin.

MAY 15.

"The fulness of the blessing of the Gospel of Christ."—ROM, xv. 29.

"Who can measure the blessed life-giving power which flows from the revelation of the heart of God upon the Cross of Calvary? It kindles our desires and our hopes. It sweeps away the mighty barrier of doubt and dread, and draws us gently but resistlessly to our Father's breast. It speaks to every downcast trembling child of man, saying, 'Fear not, for I am thy God and thy Redeemer.'"

H. J. Van Dyke.

MAY 16.

"God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it."—GEN. ii. 3.

"Every Sunday of your life He invites you, 'Come unto me, and rest.' Try to regard every Sunday as a step toward Heaven, and by His grace He will make it so, for His will is to save, forgive, sanctify, and bless us forever, if we prevent Him not by refusing to improve the helps and opportunities He giveth."

Keble.

MAY 17.

"The Lord shall bless thee in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee, if thou shalt keep the commandments of the Lord."—DEUT. xxviii. 8, 9.

"Temporary afflictions may break over the heads of Christ's people, but the nature of the covenant is such that they can not be unsafe. The very hairs of their heads are all numbered. They are the objects of an everlasting love. This comfort, therefore, may be taken by the humblest believer, from his connection with a covenant which is well ordered and sure."

J. Alexander.

MAY 18.

"Bless them that curse you, and pray for them who despitefully use you."—LUKE vi. 28.

"Whenever those who are Christians suffer, there is Christ.

"There is no affliction that can befall us that is too great for His grace. There are wounds of soul which are greater than all wounds of body. The spirit of a man will sustain his infirmity, but a wounded spirit who can bear? None, unless sustained by Him, who healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds."

J. W. Alexander.

MAY 19.

"God made promise, saying, Surely blessing I will bless thee."—HEB. vi. 14.

"Blessed be His Holy name, His ways are not as our ways, nor His thoughts as our thoughts. He condescends to reason with the wayward child, and to bring His promises into view. Such blessed promises—'Behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest'; 'Be strong, and of a good courage'; 'Fear not, I will never, never leave thee, I will never forsake thee.'"

Anon.

MAY 20.

"Fear not, for I am with thee, and will bless thee."—GEN. xxvi. 24.

"The child of God is assured that all things work together for good; in this is plainly included the pledge that chastisements and afflictions shall eventually prove a blessing."

J. W. Alexander.

Remember,-

"He who hath led, will lead, He who hath blessed, will bless."

MAY 21.

"The Lord will give strength unto His people; the Lord will bless His people with peace."—Ps. xxix. 11.

"The rugged road of the Cross on which we stumble and fall with bleeding feet, has been sanctified and in the end smoothed to us by the blessed passage of One who was made perfect thereon."

Anon.

"He liveth always, faileth never, So rest in Him, to-day, forever."

Anon.

MAY 22.

"Blessed are they that keep my ways."—Prov. viii. 32.

"If thou wilt but go on with thy duties, desiring to love—in such cases the desire of loving is love in His sight; the irksome dullness and dryness is the thorn in thy flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet thee. But fear not: God's grace is sufficient for thee; His strength will be made perfect in thy weakness. Only set yourself in earnest to obey His voice. Say to Him night and day, 'Behold the servant of the Lord, be it unto me according to Thy Word.'"

Keble.

MAY 23.

"Watch therefore, for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. Blessed is that servant whom His Lord when He cometh shall find so doing."—MATT. xxiv. 42, 46.

"A short race, a rough pilgrimage, a dangerous voyage, a hard day's work. And then a glorious prize, a happy end, a good home, a complete victory, and an eternal reward. Fear not, the end crowns the whole."

Christian's Packet-Book.

MAY 24.

"The trying of your faith worketh patience. Blessed is the man that endureth."—JAMES i. 3, 12.

"Blessed affliction has this result, it shows us where our refuge is. The lesson is not to be learned at once, but the moment is a joyful, blessed one when it is acquired. The Psalmist knew it, and in his affliction he cried to God, 'I was brought low, and Thou helped me. Return unto thy rest, O my soul.'

"It was the sense of God's mercy to him in affliction which led him to return to God as his rest."

MAY 25.

"Pray with the understanding, else when thou shalt bless with the spirit, how shall he that occupieth the room of the unlearned, say Amen?"—
I COR. xiv. 15, 16.

"There can be no comfort in prayer when there is not a belief that prayer is heard and will be answered. The believer who comes to God by prayer, and seeks some promise suitable to his needs, need not search long. Blessed be God, so rich are the treasures of His Word."

J. Alexander.

MAY 26.

"It is more blessed to give than to receive."—ACTS xx. 35.

"Give then to your power; yea, and beyond your power, and He will multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruit of your righteousness.

"For, as Bishop Wilson said, 'God will be no man's debtor.' 'He that hath pity on the poor lendeth unto the Lord, and look, what he layeth out, it shall be paid him again with large increase.'"

MAY 27.

"Blessed is the king of Israel."-JOHN xii, 13.

"The king—Christ Jesus!—and yet the One of all love!

"Think you, would it be possible for one moment to discern our Master's eye fixed on us in love, and not to catch some faint spark of loving thought in our own hearts?

"Surely, when our Saviour hath let us know that He loveth us: from that day forth we have a deeper and more serious account to give of all our conduct towards God, and more than ever we had before."

Keble.

MAY 28.

"Christ hath redeemed us, that the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith."—GAL. iii. 14.

"'They which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham. We, through the Spirit, wait for the hope of righteousness by faith'; and 'faith purifies the heart; gives you to realize the presence of a holy God.' Let your prayer be, then, 'Lord, increase my faith'; 'Lord, I believe, help Thou mine unbelief.'"

MAY 29.

"Blessed be Thy glorious Name, which is exalted above all blessing and praise. Thou hast made heaven, the earth, the seas, and all that is in them, and Thou preserveth them all."-NEH. ix. 5, 6.

"The invisible things of Him may be from the creation of the world clearly seen and understood by the things that are made." What a blessing this is, "We may walk in the midst of this world of His, not thereby shut out from Him, but seeing Him on all sides. Yet beauty is not religion, but it tells of religion. It speaks of God."

Rawlinson.

MAY 30.

"Prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it."-MAL. iii. 10.

"But remember, we shall not find strength as we go, nor shall we find God at last, spite this blessed promise, if we be not careful to go very reverently."

MAY 31.

"He who blesseth himself in the earth shall bless himself in the God of truth."—Is. lxv. 16.

"We are too apt to forget amid the pressure of life's burdens, that the Divine Love is personal, individual, discriminating, and unchanging, and that through ways that we know not, the Lord is leading us on."

JUNE I.

"Consecrate yourselves to-day to the Lord, that He may bestow upon you a blessing this day."—Ex. xxxii. 29.

"Satisfaction plenty, joy, and honor, these are all in the bond of this promised blessing.

"I do not know why we are so slow to take God at His word. It seems easy enough to expect blessings at the hand of earthly friends, and yet we hold back when the Lord commands. 'Ask, and ye shall receive'; 'Open thy mouth wide, and I will fill it.'"

Anon.

JUNE 2.

"The Lord shall greatly bless thee, if thou hearken unto the voice of the Lord."—DEUT. XV. 4, 5.

"God's blessing will always be easier and more real to us in proportion as we dwell habitually upon the profounder and more spiritual of His mercies.

"And the more spiritual a man's religion is, the more expansive and broad it always is."

Phillips Brooks.

JUNE 3.

"Blessed be thou, . . . thou shalt do great things, and also shalt prevail."—I SAM. xxvi. 25.

"Many a time our lives are all dark with sorrow or perplexity or disappointment; but hereafter these same lives may be fragrant with the blessings these sad days are holding in reserve for us."

Anon.

Remember, "the consciousness of duty performed gives music at midnight."

Herbert.

JUNE 4.

"Lord, save Thy people, and bless Thine inheritance; feed them also, and lift them up forever."—Ps. xxviii. 9.

"Turn your mind often to the blessings you have enjoyed, to the grace which Christ Jesus has given you, to the better thoughts with which He has inspired you, to the sins which He has forgiven you, to the promise He has made you, to the extraordinary help He has afforded you. Count up your blessings!"

Fenelon.

JUNE 5.

"Blessed of the better."—HEB. vii. 7.

"Christ in you. From this union seems to flow every blessing. Oh, what a world of glory is opened to us in these words, 'My beloved is mine and I am his.' Nothing can separate us from Jesus. Nothing extracts Jesus from the cup presented. Laden with Him, every event must be full of love, though perhaps blessings in disguise."

Powerscourt.

JUNE 6.

"If thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God blessed shalt thou be."—DEUT. xxviii. 2, 3.

"There is no greater gift or possession than to believe God speaks to us. If we believe that, we are already blessed."

Luther.

"Ah! the wonderful reviving power in a single one of the Lord's words. They are heavenly manna sweet to the taste."

Anna Warner.

JUNE 7.

"The Lord shall greatly bless thee."—Deut. xv. 4.

"Blessed are ye that weep now, whether in contradiction or bereavement, or sickness or fear. Every visitation is an advance in your walk of faith. Every chastisement is sent to open a new page in the great Book of Life, to show you things within you which you knew not. He is clearing the power of sight in you, and that power of sight is love. The more fervently you cleave to Him by love, the clearer shall be your blessed vision of His beauty."

Anon.

JUNE 8.

"Blessing, and glory, and honor, and power be unto Him who sitteth on the throne, and to the Lamb forever."—REV. v. 13.

"Ah! what a Gospel lies within those words! A Gospel? Aye, if you will receive it, the root of all other possible Gospels and good-news for all."

Kingsley.

"Know.

Who worship God shall find Him."

JUNE 9.

"Men shall be blessed in Him."-Ps. lxxii. 17.

"We are to love what He loves, and do what He commands, and suffer what pain or sorrow He sends, and carry what burdens He lays on us, and in all and through all to rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And remember, every action and every passive grace will contribute something to the completeness that is set in obedience to the will of God, and blessed in Him, and blessed by Him."

Raleigh.

JUNE 10.

"He doth bless the sacrifice."—I SAM. ix. 13.

"The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and a contrite heart, O God, Thou wilt not despise."—PSA. li. 17.

"There is something better than happiness, even the blessedness which comes to us in our worst griefs."

"We can never know without sorrow the blessedness of the promise, 'Lo! I am with you alway."

Ellen Watson.

JUNE II.

"He will love thee and bless thee."—DEUT. vii. 13.

"Our blessed Lord left us a legacy, 'My peace I give unto you,' to which is annexed that which is ready to make us shrink, for He adds, 'In the world ye shall have tribulation.' In our Christian journeying there are many spots where we make an attempt to rest, but we are made to feel our mistake; and yet when thus made to feel the rest is not here, we are richly blessed, for in every disappointment we are reminded of His promise, 'In me ye shall have peace.'"

Mrs. Hawkes.

JUNE 12.

"Blessed be the Lord, He is the saving strength of His anointed."—Ps. xxviii. 6-8.

"You need feel no fear, for help in time of need will be afforded; though the billows rise high and look dark and dismal, they will not be suffered to overflow your soul.

"This safety is the blessedness of having built on the Rock which no storms or tempests can shake. All we have to do is to cling there, under the wings of Almighty Love."

JUNE 13.

"The Lord gave and the Lord hath taken away, blessed be the name of the Lord."—JOB i. 21.

"There is healing in the bitter cup. God takes away or removes far from us those we love, as hostages of our faith. And faith is that precious alchemy which transmutes grief into joy, for by it we look forward to a re-union in another world where there will be no separation."

Anon.

JUNE 14.

"He took the five loaves and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven He blessed them, and they all did eat and were filled."—LUKE ix. 16, 17.

"When we spread our insufficiency before God, and break it into its worthlessness for His blessing to enter, then it shall return richer than it came, for the great Creative Spirit is ever ready to touch the minute grain of manna in the heart, and make it numerous to shine like the stars."

Fames Martineau.

JUNE 15.

"Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection."—REV. xx. 6.

"This is the prerogative of noble natures, that their departure to higher regions exercises a no less blessed influence than did their abode on earth! that they lighten us from above like stars by which to steer our course."

Goethe.

Let them immortal wake
Among the breathless flowers of Paradise,
Where angel songs of welcome,
. . . . To celestial joy their souls invite.

IUNE 16.

"Blessed are those servants whom the Master when He cometh shall find watching."—LUKE xii. 37.

"Are ye like unto men that wait for their Lord?

"Remember, 'the things which master the slave are mastered by the friend. Fidelity is mastery. Christ's touch makes you master; through Him you are master of each day's trials and burdens. You mount on them a step nearer Heaven. Nothing can trouble him to whom Christ says, 'I go to prepare a place for you.' And he says it to you!"

M. R. Vincent.

JUNE 17.

"Blessed are they that keep judgment, and he that doeth righteousness at all times."—Ps. cvi. 3.

"It becomes us to fall in with God's order, and to attach to the separate steps the same importance that He does. If we do this, we shall be led to develop the resources of single points of effort. We shall find more joy and success in our daily lives. We shall know the blessedness of the assurance, 'My steps are ordered of the Lord, He upholdeth me.'"

Anon.

JUNE 18.

"Bless ye the Lord."-Jud. v. 9.

"Blessed is he who hath said, 'My grace is sufficient for thee.' Sufficient to fill all the good pleasures of His goodness, and the work of faith with power. Sufficient to uphold you in all conflicts and combats with your spiritual enemies, and to make you more than conquerors.

"Oh! for that faith that is able even to come up from the wilderness leaning on the Beloved."

Mrs. Hawkes.

JUNE 19.

"Now bless the Lord your God."—I CHRON. xxix. 20.

"A clear and thankful view of God here is the same in kind as will be the vision of God in His glory. The thrill of love to Christ is the beginning of the rapture of the blessed in heaven, the foregleam of entering into the nearer presence of the joy of our blessed Lord."

Anon.

JUNE 20.

"If we love one another God dwelleth in us."—
I JOHN iv. 12.

"Blessed is that servant whom his Lord when He cometh shall find so doing."—LUKE xii. 43.

"If we strive to bless others, we shall surely be blessed ourselves.

"Let us this day make some one happy, and begin right around us, not looking away for some great thing to accomplish; but taking the duty nearest to us, do that, and then we shall see the next."

JUNE 21.

"Blessed is the man that heareth me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors, for whoso findeth me, findeth life."—Prov. viii. 34, 35.

"Let us aim to find Christ in every sphere of our life, then He will open to us the fountains of His grace, and we shall know the blessedness of a calm onward guiding, leading us from day to day, and from duty to duty."

Raleigk.

JUNE 22.

"In His time He shall show who is the blessed and only Potentate, who only hath immortality."—I TIM. vi. 15, 16.

Remember,—"The manifestation of Christ's right-eousness is not merely in order to reveal the sin of the world, but in order to scatter and confound it, and drive it away. He came to cast out sin; yea, and He did cast it out, and hereby He gave a pledge that it should be cast out from the souls of His saints, and of all who become partakers of His blessed and glorious redemption."

Hare.

JUNE 23.

- "Blessed are the peace-makers."-MATT. v. 9.
- "Make peace, so shalt thou be the manifest child of the God of peace.
- "And who can diffuse peace, except through that peace of God into which he has entered?
- "Ponder the blessedness of him whose character is perfected through peace-making in this evil world!"

 Anon.

JUNE 24.

"Blessed are they that do His commandments, that they may have a right to the tree of life, and may go in through the gates into the city."—REV. xxii. 14.

"Let your thoughts go There, whither your feet would go, even within to the city of the living God.

"And remember our Heaven is bought for us by Christ; the height and depth of His love which passeth knowledge, the treasure of His grace, the riches of His redemption have built that city which can not be moved."

Anna Warner.

JUNE 25.

"When the Ear heard me, then it blessed me."

—JOB xxix. 11.

Ponder,—"The blessing of peace, the being at rest in God, satisfied with that fruition which blesseth all who hunger for God, and is the highest form of communion with Him.

"Peace when all the horizon is clear, all the winds are still, the ocean at rest, and birds of peace sit brooding on the charmed wave."

Alexander Maclaren.

IUNE 26.

"I will bless thee."—Ex. xx. 24.

"The gift of faith is God's blessing; for by faith we receive the power to cast away our sins, and to live a life of holiness and love. Through faith we are lifted out of ourselves. Through faith we become members of the everlasting body of Christ! the Spirit of Christ passes into us! and thus in the fulness of time we too shall go with Him to His Father."

Hare.

JUNE 27.

"The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord."—Job i. 21.

"It is the Lord, let Him do what seemeth good. Our part is to pray that we may bear patiently whatever trials may be allotted us, firmly trusting in His word that all things shall work together for good to them that love Him."

Hannah More.

JUNE 28.

"Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered."—ROM. iv. 7.

Remember,—"The way to this blessing is, simply to trust the Lord Jesus Christ.

"Christ in one word has purchased a full forgiveness, if you and I are willing to receive it; and faith, simple faith, is the only thing required. All things are ready; only believe, and be satisfied. He has provided a garment of righteousness to clothe us, He has opened a fountain of living water to cleanse us."

Ryle.

JUNE 29.

"Ye shall serve the Lord your God, and He shall bless thy bread and thy water."—Ex. xxiii. 25.

"Blessed is He who hath said, Whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him, shall never thirst."

"Have you quaffed this water that through green pastures glides?

"The water whose blessedness a world's thirst can not drain."

Lucy Larcom.

JUNE 30.

"Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world."—MATT. xxv. 34.

"Remember there is room in Heaven for all individual differences, and preparation made to satisfy each one. Think of these restless cravings answered; think of these longing hearts at rest, in full and absolute content. We awake in the likeness of Christ, to bear the image of the Heavenly. Think for a little while what that will be!"

The Other Shore.

JULY I.

"The Lord thy God bless thee in all that thou doest."—DEUT. xv. 18.

"Sometimes we do so wish we had something to give to God for all His Love, and it is a great blessing when He puts His hand on a gift, and says, 'This will I have.'

"When we can make the response with our whole heart we enter into His peace, and learn to know what the promise is, 'My peace I give unto thee.'"

H. Monsell.

JULY 2.

"The Almighty shall bless thee with blessings of Heaven above, and blessings of the deep that lieth under."—GEN. xlix. 25.

""All things work together for good to them that love God.' If we love God, this is the position. If we love Him, all is well. Thus working things, which we never could resist if we met them in our own strength alone, now produce nothing but good for us. 'Does the storm blow? He maketh the storm a calm. Is it night?—Unto the upright there ariseth light in darkness.' Trust the ever blessed God."

Raleigh.

JULY 3.

"A faithful man shall abound with blessings."
—PROV. XXVIII. 20.

"Let a man begin in earnest with, I ought; he will end by God's grace, if he perseveres, with the full blessedness of, I will."

F. W. Robertson.

"Oh, weary soul, toil on; His love restraineth, And blesseth thee.

He blesseth all things."

Anon.

JULY 4.

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to His abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."—I PET. i. 3.

"The atonement is for the whole world. A blessing for all; a blessing large and ample—for Christ died for all. Press forward then to make the blessing known, and to help forward the conquest of the world by the cross of Christ."

Newman Smyth.

JULY 5.

"Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted."—MATT. v. 4.

"Happy are they only who have sorrow sweetened by this divine promise.

"They glory in tribulation. They have storms, but they have both an anchor and a haven.... The soul recognizes the goodness of the one, and faith enters the stronghold. In the Lord Jehovah is everlasting strength."

J. W. Alexander.

JULY 6.

"Bless, Lord, his substance."-DEUT. xxxiii. 11.

"But the supply of food and raiment is not the only temporal blessing which a believer may want. Other things there are too, and in regard to all, our only security is in having God with us. This He graciously promises. It is our part to lay hold on this immutable Word. It has been the stay of thousands; it is strong enough to be ours."

JULY 7.

"In all places where I record my name I will come unto thee, and I will bless thee."—Ex. xx. 24.

Think how the name of Him, the "I Am," is recorded in the Book!

"The power of the Bible to cheer the afflicted is one of its chiefest glories. It is the Bible only that can give us the blessed assurance that 'our light affliction which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding, even an eternal weight of glory; while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal."

Blaikie.

JULY 8.

"Now, the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart. According to the glorious Gospel of the blessed God."—I TIM. i. 5, II.

Remember,—"The Author and Giver of all good things, expects us to grow and improve. He offers to increase in us true religion, to nourish us in all goodness. The Gospel is a call to progress and improvement; it bids us never tire in our works of charity, but as fast as one kind purpose is accomplished, set about another. Let charity, gentleness, and love, be as the breath you draw."

Keble.

JULY 9.

"God be merciful unto us, and bless us, and show us the light of His countenance."—Ps. lxvii. 1.

"God, even our own God, shall give us His blessing.

"God shall bless us! and all the ends of the world shall fear Him."

The Psalter.

Remember,-

"There is a blessing for every woe, a promise for every prayer."

Anon.

JULY 10.

"Let it please Thee to bless the house of Thy servant, and with Thy blessing let the house of Thy servant be blessed."—2 SAM. vii. 29.

"God, year after year, blesses us with the same home-feeling in His earth. And is not this a strong argument that He will keep the old home-feeling for us in heaven; that we shall find ourselves beyond the river of death in the midst of all the former familiar things of our life, just as when we pass out of the gloom of any fear, we find ourselves in the midst of former scenes."

Macmillan.

JULY II.

"I will bless thee, and thou shalt be a blessing."—GEN. xii. 2.

"If God has blessings in store for us, He will not suffer us to rest until He brings us into possession of them.

"We are sure of deliverance if God is our Saviour. He will deliver and bless us in six troubles, and in seven shall no evil touch us."

Anon.

JULY 12.

"My soul doth magnify the Lord; for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed."—LUKE i. 46, 48.

"Ponder this divine hymn of the blessed Virgin it is a pattern for all Christians, for it sets forth the blessed duty of making the most of the love of God shed abroad in our hearts."

Keble.

JULY 13.

"I will not let Thee go, except Thou bless me."

—GEN, xxxii. 26.

"Thou blessed Lord, wilt Thou bear my griefs and carry my sorrows? And may I look to Thee, not only as my Saviour from sin, but as my sympathizing Comforter too?

"Blessed Jesus, Thou dost not chide my tears.

Verily Thou dost bear my grief."

J. P. Thompson.

JULY 14.

"The generations of the upright shall be blessed."—Ps. exii. 2.

"O child of God,

For nothing careful be!

But cast thou all thy care on Him

Who always cares for thee."—

"Bright blessed hour—thus to trust—

Blessed promise—'Shall be blessed.'"

Anon.

JULY 15.

"The Lord bless thee, and keep thee."—NUMB. vi. 24.

"The Lord hath prepared blessedness and joy for thee, where Christ is the Sun, the Life, and the All in all."

Perthes.

"We must wait for Heaven. But God's grace and blessing we have always."

Anon.

JULY 16.

"Bless ye the Lord."-JUDGES v. 9.

"We shall bless God in heaven, and ought to bless Him on earth, for all the trials we meet along our way there. It is His doing, therefore it must be right. We should see not only the hand of God, but the hand of our Heavenly Father full of mercy and loving-kindness in all that befalls us; we should believe it to be best for us, because it is His will."

G. W. Bethune.

JULY 17.

"The Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women."—LUKE i. 28,

"Say of me, as the angel said, 'Thou art
The blessedest of women'—blessedest,
Not holiest, not noblest, no high name
Whose height, misplaced, may pierce me like a shame.
When I sit meek in Heaven."

Mrs. Browning.

"Who can find a virtuous woman? Her price is above rubies, her children rise up and call her blessed."

Prov. XXXI, 10, 28.

JULY 18.

Thou shalt fear the Lord! for I am the Lord your God. I will command my blessing upon you."—LEV. xxv. 21.

Remember in order to find the blessings, in order to profit by God's dealings with us, we must study to turn them into means of spiritual good. "We must concern ourselves that both the sunshine and the shower, the calm and the storm, may do us good. By indifference a season fraught with blessing may pass over us without leaving one lasting impression."

7. Kennedy.

JULY 19.

"Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments."—REV. xvi. 15.

Watcheth! "Possessing the soul in quietness before the Lord."

"Do you know what Luther said? 'Suffer and be still, tell no man thy sorrow, trust in God. His help will not fail thee.' This is what Scripture calls 'keeping silence before God.' To talk much of one's sorrow makes one weak; but to tell one's sorrow to Him who heareth in secret makes one strong and calm."

Tholuck.

JULY 20.

"Blessed is the man that endureth temptation."—JAMES i. 12.

"Blessed assurance, 'Christ was in all points tempted,' and we can never know the sorrow into which the 'Man of Sorrows' can not enter.

"We can never understand the depth and preciousness of His sympathy until we come to need it.

"The sympathy of man is cheering and comforting, but it is finite, limited. The sympathy of Jesus is alone exalted, pure, infinite."

Macdufr.

JULY 21.

"The Lord is good to all. And His tender mercies are over all His works. O Lord, Thy saints shall bless Thee."—Ps. cxlv. 9, 10.

"Remember, let not the blessings we daily receive from God, make us not to value them because they be so common. Let us not forget to praise Him for them all."

Isaac Walton.

JULY 22.

"Blessed are your eyes, for they see."—MATT. xiii. 16.

"Walk as children of Light! This is the simple and beautiful substance of your Christian duty; this is your bright privilege."

Hare.

And remember, "every day is a little life, and our whole life but a day repeated. Those that dare lose a day are dangerously prodigal of their blessings."

JULY 23.

"Bless, Lord, his substance, and accept the work of his hands."—DEUT. XXXIII. II.

"Blessings ever wait on virtuous deeds. And though late, a sure reward succeeds."

Congreve.

"Unto every one that hath shall be given. 'God blesses even the generous thought,' how much more the generous deed."

JULY 24.

"Bless ye the Lord, all ye His hosts, ye ministers of His that do His pleasure."—Ps. ciii. 21.

"The Lord can prevent trouble, or remove trouble; but what is best of all, He can sanctify troubles, making them real blessings, and that is what He out of infinite Love generally chooses to do."

Christian's Pecket-Eook.

JULY 25.

"David describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works, saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven."—Rom. iv. 6, 7.

"The weapons of our warfare are spiritual through God. 'Tis the Spirit that gives them their success and efficacy. There is spiritual power in the presence of Christ. O happy and blessed conquest! O blessed victory when the conqueror and the conquered both triumph together!"

Anon.

JULY 26.

"Blessed are the poor in spirit."—MATT. v. 3.

"Blessed are the humble and lowly in their own eyes.

"Lord, grant us that broken and contrite spirit which in Thy sight is blessed. May we be blessed now, and blessed eternally.

"Blessed Healer! all our burdens lighten;
Give us peace, we pray;

Keep us near Thee, till the morn shall brighten, And all mists and shadows flee away."

Anon

JULY 27.

"Blessed are ye when men shall revile you."—MATT. v. 11.

"It is the will of God that we should rejoice in the days of persecution; for when persecution sets in, and the soldiers of Christ give proof of their courage, the heavens will open, and they will enter in to receive their crowns of victory. The great Pattern of humility and patience Himself set the example, teaching us what we must do, and suffering what we are to suffer. Follow His blessed leadership."

Sister Augustine.

JULY 28.

"Blessed is the man who maketh the Lord his trust."—Ps. xl. 4.

"Give heart, hand, life to Christ, never forgetting the object of life." And remember this, "true love, peaceful, joyous, blessed on earth, leads directly to that river of pleasure, which is at God's right hand forevermore."

W. Adams,

JULY 29.

"Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit."—MATT. XXV. 34.

"The blessed Spirit invites us toward Heaven. The Spirit, the Purifier, as He makes us holier and better, fits us for a clearer atmosphere and nobler company. And through His blessed influence we may rear up virtues which will shed a fragrance over this sinful earth, and breathe a blessing on the weary hearts of suffering men, and make Christianity a name to be revered, and the true Christian one whom the eye sees and blesses."

Boyd.

JULY 30.

"O Lord of hosts, blessed is the man that trusteth in Thee,"—Ps. lxxxiv. 12.

"O Lord of hosts, Thou God of grace,

How blest, divinely blest, is he

Who trusts Thy love, and seeks Thy face,

And fixes all his hopes on Thee,"

"Whatever we trust with the Lord is safe; whatever we trust the Lord for is certain, and while we trust the Lord, we have peace."

JULY 31

"I will open the windows of Heaven, I will pour on you a blessing."—MAL. iii. 10.

"Do you know the blessing of rolling all your cares on God? He can bind up the broken-hearted, and comfort all who mourn. He is ever near calling us to come to Him, and by meekness and holiness of heart find rest and peace. Blessed Jesus, let not our confidence fail, nor our faith be wavering, but stablish, strengthen, settle it."

Memorials of a Quiet Life.

AUGUST I.

"I will bless thee."-GEN. xii. 2.

Ponder this promise, and "pray that you may never lose the blessing of any part of the complete mediatorship of our Mediator.

"Remember everything Jesus was and did, He was and did for us.

"He lived His life, He died His death, for us.....
The completeness and unity of His salvation lies in the completeness and unity with which His whole life lies between us and God, so that through it God comes to us, and we go to God."

Phillips Brooks.

AUGUST 2.

"Blessed is the man who trusteth in the Lord, for he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green."—JER. xvii. 7, 8.

"This perpetual freshness is one of the most attractive things in the world. He that spreadeth out roots by the river of peace does not even see when heat cometh."

Have you the trust in the Lord that yields this blessing of ever newness of life?

AUGUST 3.

"Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our salvation."—Ps. lxviii. 19.

"The God that saves us supplies us, and if His mercies were not so constant, they would daily fill us with wonder.

"All good things come to us with Christ! Having Christ, all we want is secured."

Anon.

AUGUST 4.

"So will I save you, and ye shall be a blessing: fear not."—ZECH. viii. 13.

"There is no pardon, no blessing separate from inward improvement; sanctity of character alone blesses; each man is his own hell and his own heaven. God Himself can not bless you unless He gives you His own character. There is no good to be got from Christ except by being made like Him."

F. W. Robertson.

AUGUST 5.

"The Lord will bless them that fear the Lord, both small and great."—Ps. cxv. 13.

"Love and fear God with heart, soul, and strength, and mind, and your neighbor as yourself, and the poor will bless you; the fallen will look up in your face, as they looked in the face of Christ, and see pity and help written there. But do not think about the face itself. Have the angel within, and leave all else to come as it will; the Lord your God will put His beauty upon you—His sign of blessing."

Raleigh.

AUGUST 6.

"He blessed and brake, and they did all eat and were filled."—MATT. xiv. 19, 20.

"Christ relied on the natural hunger of human hearts, and trusted to the yearning soul and multiplying grace to make what He had suffice. And lo! the answer to His prayer is the great continuing miracle of our being divinely fed. 'Angel's food' has become the favorite emblem of the providing care of God—the fulness of Christ's spiritual blessing."

James Martineau.

AUGUST 7.

"Blessed be the Most High, whose dominion is an everlasting dominion, and His kingdom is from generation to generation."—DAN. iv. 34.

"The Lord lives, and you may tell Him all your doubts, all your fears, all your hopes and aspirations.

"He will give the bread of life for heart-hunger, the water of life for the deep, inner soul thirst.

"Lord, to whom shall I go, but unto Thee, for Thou hast the words of eternal life

Anon.

AUGUST 8.

"Blessed is he that shall eat bread in the kingdom of God."—LUKE xiv. 15.

"These words about feasting and all that seem so material.

"Yet you know all our ideas of things above must come through some earthly image, the city, the harp, the crown; the words only give us a faint reflection of unutterable realities, to which in this life we can come no nearer. The thought of a feast was simple to Christ, and He enlarged on it, for He said: 'When thou makest a feast, call the poor, the lame, the blind, and thou shalt be blessed; they can not recompense thee, but thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection.'"

Anna Warner.

AUGUST 9.

"Blessed is he whosoever shall not be offended in Me."—MATT. xi. 6.

"O, may I never, never be
Offended at Thy words or Thee,
But steadily obedient, prove
The blessedness of simple love."

"Strong love to Christ will enable us to bear anything for Christ, and to be pleased with everything in Christ."

Anon.

AUGUST 10.

"Bless ye the Lord, all ye servants of the Lord: lift up your heads and bless the Lord."—Ps. cxxxiv. I, 2.

"We come very short of the blessedness we might enjoy; but depend upon it, there are glorious things in the city of our God, which they who have an assured hope taste even in their life-time. There are lengths and breadths of consolation there, which it has not entered into your heart to conceive. There is bread enough and to spare in our Father's house."

Ryle.

AUGUST II.

"Bless the Lord, O my soul, who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's."—Ps. ciii. 1, 5.

"As the Lord's mercies are new every morning, so those to whom they come have a perpetual freshness of life, untouched by the burden and heat of the day. Their youth is renewed! They are like a tree planted by the rivers of water, they shall still bring forth fruit in old age."

Anna Warner.

AUGUST 12.

"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly."—Ps. i. 1.

"Remember, the first word of the Psalms is like that of the Sermon on the Mount—a blessing.

"And the next beatitude of the Psalms is that of him whose sin is confessed, forgiven, subdued. Thus David makes a declaration of the blessedness of those whose iniquities are dismissed, and whose sins are veiled off from sight."

Witness of the Psalms to Christ.

AUGUST 13.

"Blessed are they whose sins are covered."—Rom. iv. 7.

Words, these, that teach a blessed lesson.

"And David said unto Nathan, 'I have sinned against the Lord.' He is too deeply moved for more words, and as brief and simple as the confession, is the response, 'And Nathan said unto David, The Lord hath put away thy sin.' How full and unconditional the blessing bestowed in these few words. Thus simple and divine is the manner of pardon. In such short compass may the turning-point of a life lie."

Alexander Maclaren.

AUGUST 14.

"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly; he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of waters."—Ps. i. 1, 3.

"Retire from the world and ponder this blessedness.

"Oh! blessed freedom, that we can thus retire, can thus unburthen the soul, and tell all to God. Here at His footstool we can plead for mercy till we obtain the blessing."

Hannah More.

AUGUST 15.

"Blessed are they that mourn."-MATT. v. 4.

"Mourning and sorrow are in reality the acknowledged and felt contradiction of the nature that is in us, to the divine life which will be revealed in us. The mourners shall be comforted, for the Holy One dwelleth with those who are of a contrite and humble spirit, and the merciful comfort of God is nigh to every troubled one in his afflictions. It is but a commencement of blessedness—a beginning of consolation. But remember, only to sorrow that springs from this poverty of spirit is this peace given."

Stier.

AUGUST 16.

"Thy heart shall not be grieved when thou givest, and the Lord thy God shall bless thee in all thy works."—DEUT. xv. 10.

"Blessed indeed are they who follow Him 'who went about doing good." Be not content to be merciful and helpful to your brethren only, and now and then, but pass the whole time of your sojourning here in mercy. If such a life be sweet and precious now, what must the fruit and end of it be when it comes to be made perfect in heaven! when the work, the anxiety, the self-denial, will be all over, and only the love and joy and everlasting blessedness remain!"

AUGUST 17.

"The Lord liveth, and blessed be my Rock. He is the tower of salvation."—2 SAM. xxii. 47-51.

"'God with us'; our God, yet our Brother; our Brother, yet our God, which makes Him the sure and unassailable stronghold He is. The 'Clefts' whither His people are invited to flee, are in a Rock; but that Rock is the 'Rock of Ages.'"

Macduff.

AUGUST 18.

"Blessed are the merciful."-MATT. v. 7.

"The merciful doeth good to his own soul."—Prov. xi. 17.

"Blessed are they who labor and pray to be merciful, not after the false pattern of this world, but after Christ's pure and high example. His Divine pattern must in the end serve either to shame or to bless, and for a blessing there need be no limit to the hopes of a true penitent, for the Infinite One esteems it part of His own blessedness to be ever pouring out new blessings."

Keble.

AUGUST 19.

"Blessed is the people that know the joyful sound."—Ps. lxxxix. 15.

Remember, "the last words of God's blessed Book, the last words heard from the lips of the risen and glorified Redeemer by human ear, assure us that all Adam lost will be restored by Christ. The blessing which brightened man's early pathway will be reproduced. The tree of life will bloom again, and the river of Life will flow through Paradise regained."

Macmillan.

AUGUST 20.

"Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness."—MATT. v. 6.

"Is this the one great object of your desires and aspirations and endeavors, the beacon that draws and guides you onward, and the tent that shelters and protects you?

"Are you longing, seeking, striving to fly for refuge from the sins of the world beneath the righteousness of Christ? Are you indeed hungering and thirsting after this righteousness?"

J. Hare.

AUGUST 21.

"I will bless the Lord, who hath given me counsel."—Ps. xvi. 7.

"The man who looks steadfastly into God's perfect law, and translates what he sees there into daily practice, this man 'shall be blessed in his doing,' keeping God always before his face.

"The man who studies God studies self at the same time; the man who steadfastly follows Christ, knows as much about self as he knows of Christ."

M. R. Vincent.

AUGUST 22.

"Blessed are they that put their trust in Him."
—Ps. ii. 12.

"Christ is the source of blessedness, the centre of perfection, and the circumference of excellency! Do you really love Him?

"Think, He who is blessed forevermore took our nature, and became a curse, and suffered the death on the cross, that we—you and I—might enjoy and know His blessedness."

Christian's Pocket-Book.

AUGUST 23.

"Bless the Lord who crowneth thee with loving-kindness and tender mercies."—Ps. ciii. 4.

"What we receive with God's blessing, we enjoy with a double relish. 'He shall bless thy bread, and thy water.'

"God sends to His dear children day-strength with day-bread!

"Since the past with His blessing
Has joyfully sped,
Thy heart should be quiet
In happy content,
And in His good service
Thy life be spent."

Anon.

AUGUST 24.

"Blessed are ye that hunger, for ye shall be filled."—LUKE vi. 21.

"If we hunger for spiritual blessings, it proves that we have spiritual life, and Jesus will satisfy us, for He filleth the hungry with good things."

Anon.

"From Him the poor are never driven."

AUGUST 25.

"Blessed art Thou, O Lord: teach me Thy statutes."—Ps. cxix. 12.

"The blessed Spirit of God is wont to destroy evil principles in the heart by implanting such as are good, to wean the affections from the world by attracting them to heaven, and to take away the sense of great trial by shedding abroad the love of God in the heart. You are led to the blessed joy of communion, the bond of connection is Christ, for through Him we have access to the Father."

Anon.

AUGUST 26.

"Blessed be ye poor: for yours is the kingdom of God."—LUKE vi. 20.

"The poorer we are, the more we need the Saviour; and the more we need Him, the more welcome we are to Him."

Anon.

Remember,

"Christ will bless
With all the riches of His grace."

AUGUST 27.

"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits."—Ps. ciii. 2.

"Whatever the Lord does for us, however painful, is a benefit, and therefore calls for praise and thanks-giving."

James Smith.

"Encourage yourself in God when everything around is calculated to discourage you. God's mercies frequently surpass our expectations. His mercy is great unto the heavens."

Anon.

AUGUST 28.

- "Blessing be unto God forever."—REV. vii. 12.
- "In quietness and confidence shall be your strength.
- "Stillness in God is the perfect life—the grace of tranquillity. It will take a long time to learn, because one is slow to take in the stilling of the self-acting, that God may act in us His inner work."

H. Monsell.

AUGUST 29.

"May the blessing of the Lord be upon you."—Ps. cxxix. 8.

"Being blessed of God in Christ, raises us to the highest dignity. We may be happy in trouble; we are safe if blessed by Him; goodness and mercy follow us all the days of our life, and in all we see the hand of God."

Anon.

AUGUST 30.

"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy."—MATT. v. 7.

"'The poor ye have always with you, and whensoever ye will ye may do them good.' Gracious and loving command. It came to the disciples first as part of our Lord's dying words—one of the many legacies of mercy He was about to purchase for us, and send to us by His death. Do ye note the presence of the poor as a remembrance of Him who is no longer with us in sight, because He has gone up to complete our redemption and blessing."

Keble.

AUGUST 31.

"Blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it."—LUKE xi. 28.

"It is an unspeakable privilege to have God's word, but it brings great responsibility with it. May we read, believe, and practice it. Let us set our hearts on things beyond this world, even on those things which are eternal."

SEPTEMBER I.

"Blessed are the pure in heart."-MATT. v. 8.

"A pure heart is better to a man than Prophet's message or Apostle's miracle, or even outward word of Christ; for this is Christ within.

"Yes, a clear heart is better than a sound creed; for the sound creed is in the clear heart, or will come by its means. There may be still some darkness left, but remember 'unto the upright, light ariseth in the darkness.'"

Raleigh.

SEPTEMBER 2.

"I will make an everlasting covenant with thee, which the Lord hath blessed."—Is. lxi. 8, 9.

"Gratitude to a covenant God makes even a temporal blessing a taste of Heaven,"

Remaine.

Remember, "happiness is but the contentment of desire, while blessedness is the satisfaction of those aspirations which have God alone for their end and aim."

F. W. Robertson.

SEPTEMBER 3.

"Blessed are they that mourn."-MATT. v. 4.

"Thus said the Lord Jesus, as if the height of the consolation would rise far, far above the depth of the sorrow.

"And it will; for remember, 'the Lord has laid help on One that is mighty.' Remember that He is the hope of Israel. Think for what Christ came! Not to bring life only, but also joy; not merely liberty to the captive, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; but also to bind up the brokenhearted, to comfort them that mourn."

The Other Shore.

SEPTEMBER 4.

"Blessed are all they that put their trust in Him."—Ps. ii. 12.

"Cling fast to the hand which is leading you. Though it be in darkness, though it be in deep waters, you know whom you have believed. Yield not for a single moment to misgivings about future storms. Infinite love, joined to infinite skill, shall pilot the way through every strait and temptation."

J. Alexander.

SEPTEMBER 5.

"Blessed is the man whose strength is in Thee."
—Ps. lxxxiv. 5.

"If we depend upon the strength we possess, we shall fail; but if we trust in the promise we shall overcome.

"The promise is a redemption from the bondage of self into the liberty of the sons of God, who live no longer to themselves, but wholly and perfectly for the Lord whose they are."

Anon.

SEPTEMBER 6.

"I will bless the Lord; the lines are fallen unto me in pleasant places."—Ps. xvi. 6, 7.

"Lift your eyes to your Leader for heart-cheer. His Face will be your light, His Hand your strength, His Grace your food, His Loving-kindness your neverfailing strength."

SEPTEMBER 7.

"He that hath a pure heart shall receive a blessing from the Lord."—Ps. xxiv. 4, 5.

"How blessed is that presentation of Christ which enshrines Him in the very heart itself, nearer than the nearest earthly friend, and which keeps Him there unchanged in all the fulness and tenderness of human sympathy, and with all the strength and consolation of divine grace. Oh, the blessing of such a Friend, the blessing of telling Him all our trials, temptations, cares, and griefs. And we may do this; for He says, 'Come unto me; come.'"

Anon.

SEPTEMBER 8.

"When thou hast eaten and art full, then thou shalt bless the Lord thy God for the good which He hath given thee."—DEUT. viii. 10.

"Let us strive after close union and communion with Christ; He is the bread of life. Let us feed on Him day by day, as Israel on the manna, and not on our own experiences. Let Christ become more and more all things to us. His intercession our comfort; His word our warrant; His grace our strength; His sympathy our support; let us study to know more of Christ."

Ryle.

SEPTEMBER 9.

"Blessed be the Name of God forever. Wisdom and might are His."—DAN. ii. 20.

"Trust Him implicitly, submit to Him cheerfully, and you will find that all shall be well, that more grace will be given you: that the heavier the trial, the larger will be the blessed measure of strength. The Shepherd is leading you in the right way to His own blessed fold. Leave all to Him."

7. A. Mackenzie.

SEPTEMBER 10.

"I will save you, and ye shall be a blessing; fear not, let your hands be strong."—Zech. viii. 13.

"If we give ourselves to God without reserve, to live and work for Him, there is no doubt that He gives us special spiritual power. But if we wish for this power, we must keep in close communion with Him.

"How blessed is the thought, that all the trials and temptations, and even the sins of every day, are working out for us that redemption which will set us free."

SEPTEMBER II.

"If ye hearken to judgments and keep them, the Lord thy God He will love thee, and bless thee, and thou shalt be blessed."—DEUT. vii. 12-14.

"There are dispositions which, like Job, must have all things taken from them before they can find all things again in God. Blessed is the man who, when the tempest has spent its fury, recognizes his Father's voice in its undertone, and bows his head and bends his knee as Elijah did."

F. W. Robertson.

SEPTEMBER 12.

"Blessed are ye that sow beside all waters."—Is. xxxii. 20.

"Bear the load of thy neighbor's poverty, and let him bear with thee the load of thy wealth; thou lightenest thy load by lightening his." St. Augustine.

And,

[&]quot;Rlessed are the merciful."

SEPTEMBER 13.

"He blesseth thee."-Ps. cvii. 38.

"Every day speaks of the goodness of God, and when it is finished leaves it to the next day to say the same."

Henry.

"Not many lives, but one, have we. How sacred should that one life be, day after day filled up with blessed toil."

Bonar.

SEPTEMBER 14.

"Blessed are the peace-makers."-MATT. v. 9.

"Bear ye one another's burdens." "Father of mercies, give us hearts abounding with loving-kindness toward all men. May we be kindly affectionate unto all, forgiving others, as we ourselves desire to be forgiven. O Lord, let us hear in all storms of heart-tempests Thy voice, saying, 'Peace, be still.'"

SEPTEMBER 15.

"Bless the Lord at all times,"-Ps. xxxiv. 1.

"'Blessed are they who hear His word and keep it well.' And His word is, 'Follow thou Me.'

Remember in that following "there is no action so slight, but it may be done to a great purpose and ennobled thereby; nor is any purpose so great but that slight action may help it."

Ruskin.

SEPTEMBER 16.

"Blessed be God which hath not turned away my prayer, nor His mercy from me."—Ps. lxvi. 20.

"If you want to know how God feels toward you, and how ready God is to give you everything that is really good, here is something to go by; you know how much a father and mother will do for their little ones. Well, says Christ, 'you know all that'; you know all that, says His blessed Voice, and now hear me and believe me when I tell you the great Father above is just like that, only a thousandfold better."

Boyd.

SEPTEMBER 17.

"Behold I set before you a blessing—a blessing if ye obey the commandments of the Lord your God."—DEUT. xi. 26, 27.

Remember, "without continual beholding of God in Jesus Christ, we shall miss the blessing, and grow cold in love; without looking to Him as our justification, we shall become faint in hope; and without making Him our example, we shall come short in holiness."

Mrs. Hare.

SEPTEMBER 18.

"He shall deliver the needy when he crieth. Blessed be His glorious name forever."—Ps. lxxii. 12, 19.

"Ponder the blessed knowledge that our smallest concerns are regulated by our heavenly Father. We may repose in confidence that if it is good for us, happiness will be granted, and if it be hereafter chequered, as is often the case, the support and the comfort will come with the trial."

SEPTEMBER 19.

"Blessed are ye when men shall reproach you."

—LUKE vi. 22.

"Hear another word of His that must be coupled with it, 'When they persecute you in one city flee to another.' You need not stay anywhere on purpose to be persecuted, but when it comes to you in the paths of duty, then know that the rugged way in which you walk leads up to the mount of the beatitudes."

W. Gladden.

SEPTEMBER 20.

"Blessed is the man that trusteth in the Lord."
—Jer. xvii. 7.

"If we trust in men, we shall be disappointed and discouraged; but if we trust in the Lord, we shall be safe and successful.

"We may trust the Lord for all He has promised, and His promise embraces all we need in time and eternity. He that trusts in the Lord shall be safe."

Anon.

SEPTEMBER 21.

"Blessed are the pure in heart."-MATT. v. 8.

"How does Jesus make men pure? He made Himself one with our human nature, that He might heal and bless it through its contact with His divinity. He folded it around His eternal Presence. He made it His own. He made it a power which could quicken and restore us; and then, by the gift of His Spirit He bound us to it. He entered into us. He robed us in it, and henceforth Christian humanity became conscious of a Presence before which the unclean spirit can not but shrink away."

Liddon.

SEPTEMBER 22.

"Blessed is he that hath part in the first resurrection."—Rev. xx. 6.

"How glorious shall that soul be, that shall see Christ clearly, and enjoy immediate communion with Him. We shall be like Him indeed, when we shall see Him as He is. O Lord, let me have such clear visions, such sweet fruition of Thee, that I may not only hereafter be happy, as Thou art happy, but may likewise now be holy, as Thou art holy."

Divine Breathings.

SEPTEMBER 23.

"Blessed be the Lord God, who only doeth wondrous things."—Ps. lxxii. 18.

"'He will keep thee in peace.' Can we indeed thus be kept even when sorrows press upon us, and all seems dark and dreary?

"Yes, but God must keep us; we can not sustain ourselves, but if we stay our minds upon Him as our Rock of Salvation, if we trust wholly to His omniscient Eye, which seeth what is best for us, then shall we be kept in perfect peace. Oh, this is blessing; this is rest."

Sunshine and Starlight.

SEPTEMBER 24.

"Bless the Lord, all His works."-Ps. ciii. 22.

"Let him that blesseth himself on the earth, bless himself in the God of truth." "Let him that rejoiceth in the earth, rejoice in the God of truth. Come, then, live upon thy God; come, enjoy God; enjoy God in thy soul; enjoy thy soul in God. Live up to thy blessings."

Alleine.

SEPTEMBER 25.

"Blessed be ye poor."-LUKE vi. 20.

"The Friend of the poor man repeats, 'Blessed are ye poor'; but remember, 'the poor have the Gospel preached to them,' and that is everlasting riches.

"Christ says to them, 'Come unto Me, I will give you rest'—rest from the burden of your sins, for which He has paid the penalty."

Anon.

SEPTEMBER 26.

"Happy am I. Call me blessed."—GEN. XXX. 13.

"Come, ye beloved, you that are highly favored; the Lord is with you. Blessed are you; the lines are fallen to you in a pleasant place; you have a goodly heritage. Come and enter upon your lot; let your heart be glad; let divine love be the pleasure of your life. Keep close to God, by keeping close to duty."

Heaven Opened.

SEPTEMBER 27.

"I will command my blessing upon you."—
LEV. XXV. 21.

Think of your blessed inheritance, and yet yours through conflict, for "what need of armor had there been no Christian warrior? Had there been no snares, wherefore the perpetual warnings? Had this world's pleasant paths been given to Christ's followers, why set forth the fadeless joys of that fair land of promise prepared for the children of the covenant, who, 'through much tribulation,' must enter in, and take possession of their blessed inheritance?"

Shipton.

SEPTEMBER 28.

"It pleased the Lord to bless."-NUM. xxiv. I.

"This is life eternal to know Thee, and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent. To know Christ is the evidence of His love revealed to us; and Christ revealed in us, is the very entrance of heaven, for what is the perfection of grace but the fulness of His knowledge? And what is the consummation of His glory but the blessedness of His fulness?"

Anon.

SEPTEMBER 29.

"Stand up and bless the Lord your God forever and ever."—NEH. ix. 5.

"Blessed be His name. It is a part of His covenant to visit us with the rod, for our Lord says, 'As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten.' Be it ours to say, 'Lord, I will love Thee, not only despite of Thy rod, but because of Thy rod'; ours to read in the bow which spans the darkest clouds, 'He chastens because He loves.'"

Macduff.

SEPTEMBER 30.

"Blessings in Christ."—Ерн. і. 3.

"Let us listen to Christ. 'Blessed are the meek. 'Learn of Me: for I am meek and lowly in heart.' 'If I, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet, ye ought to wash one another's feet.'

"The strongest motives to Christian humility are these near sights of God's purity and blessedness which we attain through communion with His blessed Son. In Jesus the deepest of humiliations was the fruit of His charity for souls, and in us humble thoughts and deeds blossom into fruitful action through following His example."

Anon.

OCTOBER I.

"God having raised up His Son Jesus, sent Him to bless you."—ACTS iii. 26.

"Oh, blessed resort in the hour of deepest affliction! Go, child of sadness and desolation; go with thy breaking heart, with thy aching life-sorrow, too great for utterance or for tears, 'go and tell Jesus.'

"Go, and remember, there is one Ear that is ever lovingly open to the story of your sorrow.

"Remember that Friend in Heaven. 'Go and tell Jesus.'"

Macduff.

OCTOBER 2.

"His name shall endure forever; all men shall be blessed in Him."—Ps. lxxii. 17.

"Blessed is he which knoweth what it is to love Jesus.

"The love of earthly things is deceitful and frail, but the love of Jesus is faithful and doth endure.

"He which loveth worldly things shall perish therewithal, but he that embraceth Jesus abideth ever.

"Love Jesus, and keep Him thy Friend, who, when all things fade away, will never forsake thee."

A Kempis.

OCTOBER 3.

"Blessed is he that shall eat bread in the kingdom of God."—LUKE xiv. 15.

"When I speak of Eternal Life, I mean nothing else than that life which is in God, which makes God to be infinitely blessed. To say that God gives man Eternal Life, is to say that God gives man to partake of that which is His own blessedness."

Anon.

OCTOBER 4.

"The Lord shall open unto thee His good treasure, the Heavens to give the rain unto thy land in season, and to bless all the works of thine hand."—DEUT. xxviii. 12.

Remember to be on the watch for the Lord's blessing, for "many favors which the Lord giveth us ravel out for want of hemming, through our own unthankfulness; for though nothing purchaseth blessings, giving praise doth keep the quiet possession of them."

Fuller.

OCTOBER 5.

"Ye shall rejoice in all that ye put your hand unto. The Lord thy God hath blessed thee."— DEUT. xii. 7.

"Thy God shall supply all your need. Here is a key to open every door before which we pause, saying, 'How shall I get through?' A mighty master key for the regions of Giant Despair, for every lock in Doubting Castle. 'I have a key in my bosom called Promise,' said Hopeful,—and he had forgotten to take it out."

Anna Warner.

OCTOBER 6.

"The fulness of the blessing of the Gospel of Christ."—Rom. xv. 29.

Remember, "God's blessing for the pure in heart is, they shall see God. He spoke to a Master in Israel of the new birth without which no man can see the kingdom of God.

"Paul knew no better way of describing who the Christians are, than by calling them those who 'look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen.' The true Christian life is looking unto Jesus. Faith is living as seeing Him who is invisible."

Newman Smyth.

OCTOBER 7.

"Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord."
---REV. xiv. 13.

"Be it yours to live the life of the righteous, if you would die their death. Let our existence be a sacred mission to 'please God'; then the last enemy can not appear too suddenly or unexpectedly."

Macduff.

"How will trials shrink into nothing when thy amazed soul shall enter into the brightness of God's Eternal Light and Love."

Pusey.

OCTOBER 8.

"I will bless the Lord who hath given me counsel."—Ps. xvi. 7.

"It is good for me to draw near to God.

"The Lord hath counselled us in His Word, in reference to every subject of importance. Happy is the man who takes counsel of his God, and abides by it."

"' 'His counsels and upholding care
My safety and my comfort are.'"

Anon.

OCTOBER 9.

"The Lord blesseth the habitation of the just. He giveth grace unto the lowly."—Prov. iii. 33, 34.

Are you one of the lowly in heart?

"Humility is truth, and Pride is a lie; the one glorifies God, the other dishonors Him. Humility makes men to be like angels."

7. Taylor.

OCTOBER 10.

"Salvation belongeth unto the Lord; Thy blessing is upon Thy people."—Ps. iii. 8.

"O Lord, take my heart, for I can not give it; and when Thou hast it, oh, keep it, for I can not keep it for Thee; and save me in spite of myself, for Jesus Christ's sake."

Fenelon.

OCTOBER II.

"Blessed are ye when men shall revile you, and say all manner of evil against you falsely for my sake."—MATT. v. 11.

Remember "for highest blessedness there is no preparation without unusual trial. The greatest diadem which God has to bestow upon His selected children of this earth is the crown of thorns."

F. W. Robertson.

OCTOBER 12.

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places with Christ."—EPH. i. 3.

"Christ in you the hope of glory; it is the eagle eye of faith which penetrates the grave, and sees far into the tranquil things of death; he alone can believe in immortality who feels the resurrection in him already."

F. W. Robertson.

OCTOBER 13.

"Bless the Lord, all His works in all places of His dominion; bless the Lord, O my soul."— Ps. ciii. 22.

"There is not a single thing we do all the day long, which may not, and that quite easily, be made to advance the glory of God, the interests of Jesus, and the salvation of souls, and thus become a blessing, a jewel of almost infinite price."

Faber.

OCTOBER 14.

"Bless thou and praise the Lord."—Ps. cix. 28.

"Blessed is it to be under the Lord's teaching, to be trained up by Him in the way we should go. Blessed to be rising in His school, though every class presents a more difficult lesson. Blessed to have a waste heart, to feel it a wilderness, a desert fitted to rejoice in the promises; the Lord shall comfort thee, He shall comfort all thy waste places, He will make thy wilderness like Eden, thy desert as the garden of the Lord."

Powerscourt,

OCTOBER 15.

Blessed are they that weep now.

"They that sow in tears shall reap in joy."—Ps. cxxvi. 5.

"We must sow before we reap. This life is the seed-time; we shall enjoy in another the fruit of our labors. The time will come when God will wipe all tears from His children's eyes."

Anon.

OCTOBER 16.

"Without all contradiction the less is blessed of the better. . . . For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better Hope did."
—Heb. vii. 7, 19.

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." "When I thought I could of myself do everything, I could do nothing; now that it seems to me I can do nothing, I begin to be able to do all things. Blessed weakness, which makes me find in Thee, O my God! all that I find not in myself."

Fenelon.

OCTOBER 17.

"Bless the Lord from this time forth."—Ps. cxv. 18.

Study His Word, for "what else is Holy Scripture but a letter from Almighty God to His creatures. The King of Heaven, the Lord of men and of angels, has sent you a letter to conduct you to eternal life, and yet you delay to read it zealously.

"Begin to-day, and learn the mind of God from the blessed Word of God."

Gregory of Rome.

OCTOBER 18.

"He that hath a bountiful eye shall be blessed."
—Prov. xxii. 9.

"Let the love of your brethren be as a fire within you, consuming that selfishness that is so contrary to it, and is so natural to men; let it set your thoughts on work to study how to do good to others; let your love be an active love witnessing within you, and extending itself in doing good to the souls and bodies of your brethren as they need and you are able."

Leighton,

OCTOBER 19.

"Sing unto the Lord, bless His name."—Ps. xcvi. 2.

"Blessed be God! He loves not according to our desert, but according to our necessity.

"Blessed be God! it is not written His blood can cleanse from all the evil that we see, but what He sees.

"Blessed be God! we are children of promise, heirs of all the promises, children of light, waiting for the morning!

"God grant light may now shine for us more and more unto the perfect day."

Anon.

OCTOBER 20.

"Blessed is she that believeth."--LUKE ii. 45.

"Over the blessedness of our spirit circumstances need have no control. We know the beatitudes of Christian life; and these are so far from being a product of circumstances, that only against the contradiction and in the conquest of circumstances, do they reach their height."

Thom.

OCTOBER 21.

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven."—MATT. v. 3.

"Humility is not constitutional. To be truly humble in our intercourse with others there must be selfdenial.

"The Saviour bids us be meek and lowly in heart, and this meekness is a casting down of all confidence in self, that from God alone help may be derived."

Fenelon.

"Spirit of Grace, all meek and mild, Our souls possess, And bless us, as we aim to bless."

OCTOBER 22.

"Blessed are the people who walk, O Lord, in the light of Thy countenance."—Ps. lxxxix. 15.

"Is it not blessed to be able to sing of judgment as well as mercy?

"Surely it is among our chiefest blessings that it has never yet been said of us, 'Let them alone.'

"Israel was blessed when God brought down their hearts through heaviness, for they cried unto the Lord in their trouble; they remembered that God was their rock, and the high God their Redeemer. When trial comes do you thus remember?"

Powerscourt.

OCTOBER 23.

"It is more blessed to give than to receive."—ACTS xx. 35.

"God's blessing is always with unselfish labor. He blesses the effort even when it does not reach its mark, and in the sense of blessing doubt is lost in peace.

"Under the strokes of earnest force the glow of life comes out in warmth and joy."

Laws of Life.

OCTOBER 24.

"God having raised up His Son Jesus, sent Him to bless you, in turning every one of you from his iniquities."—ACTS iii. 26.

"Behold the man! Behold your King! Behold God manifest in the flesh! Hear His commanding word! His blessing for you and me is in the imperative duty of discipleship. 'Leave all and follow Me.'"

Newman Smyth.

OCTOBER 25.

"Blessed are the poor in spirit"; "Blessed are they that mourn"; "Blessed are the meek"; "Blessed are the pure in heart."—MATT. v. 3, 4, 5, 8.

"Ponder this chapter of blessings wherein Christ promises to bless us with His own blessedness, for all through His speech of blessings run words of comfort—a promise linked with each."

Anon.

OCTOBER 26.

"Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits."—Ps. lxviii. 19.

"The blessings that we know of are more than enough to kindle the most fervent love. We must treasure up God's mercies, and make much of them, and set store by them as did Jacob and David. We must mourn as Isaac did; we must ponder things as Mary did, even our blessings."

Faber.

OCTOBER 27.

Think of "the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, blessed forever."—2 COR. xi. 31.

"It is blessed to have our thoughts and joys not only 'packed up,' but gone before. Well to have all our riches in movable goods, that we may be ready to be off to the New Jerusalem at a moment's warning."

Powerscourt.

OCTOBER 28.

"Blessed is the King of Israel that cometh in the name of the Lord."—JOHN xii. 13.

"Who is this King? The Lord; my Lord. He is the King of glory.

"A King who shall stretch forth His hand to you and me, and say, 'Come in, ye blessed of my Father.' A King who has Himself prepared the kingdom, who by His dispensations and consolations, proves that He has considered our frame, knows what will satisfy us, even to enter into the joy of our Lord."

Anon.

OCTOBER 29.

"I love the Lord because He hath heard my voice and my supplication. I will bless the Lord."—Ps. cxvi. 1-2.

"O blessed prayer! thou art the unwearied conqueror of human woes, the firm foundation of human happiness, the source of ever-during joy.

"The man who can pray truly is richer and more blessed than all others."

Can you thus pray?

Chrysostom.

OCTOBER 30.

"The Lord bless thee, and keep thee: the Lord make His face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee."—NUM. vi. 24, 25.

Remember,

"There is no holiness if the Lord withdraw His presence; no wisdom if His Spirit ceases to direct. In our own nature we are as unsettled as the sand upon the mountain; but in God we have the stability of the throne in Heaven. Kindle, O Lord, our hearts with light and life by the holy fire of Thy love and blessing."

À Kempis.

OCTOBER 31.

"The Lord God is a sun and shield: the Lord will give grace and glory. O Lord of hosts, blessed is the man that trusteth in Thee."—Ps. lxxxiv. 11, 12.

"'I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.'

"To look at Thee in every step I make, is the only way never to wander. We only stray from the holy way by losing sight of Thee and ceasing to see Thee in everything. Oh, let Thine Almighty strength sustain my weakness. Grant me Thy blessing."

Fenelon,

NOVEMBER I.

"All nations shall call you blessed; ye shall be delightsome."—MAL. iii. 12.

"Blessed are ye, O glorified spirits, who have already overcome! O ye beloved of Jesus! ye saints of God! Blessed are ye, ye have conquered death in Jesus, and with Jesus. The resurrection of the Lord became your resurrection; He lives, and ye live with Him. To us all God hath promised immortal life. Thanks be unto God for this blessed Hope."

Zschokke.

NOVEMBER 2.

"Satisfied with favor, and full with the blessing of the Lord."—DEUT. xxxiii. 23.

"When your Redeemer calls you by name, it is that He may lead you forth to blessedness. His pure affection settles on what is good, and our blessed privilege is to correspond with His thoughts, and to be truly an answer to the thought; and to be this, we must believe in our possible goodness through His gracious help."

Raleigh.

NOVEMBER 3.

"Christ said, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat. I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink. Lord, they answered, when gave we Thee thus?"—MATT. xxv. 34, 37.

"This beholding of Christ in humanity is a revelation, a drawing away of a veil that beforetime hid the blessed fact, 'inasmuch as ye do it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye do it unto me.' Do you know this blessed service with its divine preface unto Christ?"

Anon.

NOVEMBER 4.

"Blessed is the man who maketh the Lord his trust."—Ps. xl. 4.

"Those who dwell most on the person and work of Christ have the brightest prospects of future blessings.

"God's omnipotence and grace authorize us to expect blessings beyond our comprehension."

7. W. Alexander.

NOVEMBER 5.

- "Ye that fear the Lord, bless the Lord."
- "Blessed is every man that feareth the Lord."

 —Ps. cxxviii. I.

Remember,

"Affliction is sanctified when we are made to feel that nothing can satisfy but God, and when we rely on Him as our only hope. It is then that the Christian finds the promises confirmed to him. Then he rolls his burden on the Lord, commits his way to Him, leans on Him, and trusts Him with all his heart. And thus afflictions by God's blessing, become blessings."

7. W. Alexander.

NOVEMBER 6.

"Blessed be the Lord God. In Thine Hand it is to make great, and to give strength to all."—
I CHRON. XXIX. IO, II.

"When the love of God has taken possession of the soul, and the whole man is consecrated to His service, life loses its fragmentary character, and one guiding stream seems to run through it. The stronger the soul is set upon one object, so much the more does it find power to overcome all difficulties. So doth it gain the victory over the world and evil."

Anon.

NOVEMBER 7.

"I will extol Thee, my God, my King, and I will bless Thy name forever and ever."—Ps. cxlv. 1.

"Teach us, O blessed Jesus, more and more of Thy own gracious mercy and love, that we may be constrained to glorify Thee more fully, and understand more of the hidden mystery of Thy blessed redemption."

Anon.

NOVEMBER 8.

"I will bless the Lord who hath given me counsel; because He is at my right hand I shall not be moved."—Ps. xvi. 7, 8.

"Blessed Lord, Thine we are, and Thee we ought to serve. Be merciful to us this day; keep us in all our ways; bless all our undertakings. Put Thy love in our hearts, and bless and guide us in our going out, and our coming in."

J. Baker.

NOVEMBER 9.

"Lord my God, look down from Thine holy habitation, from Heaven, and bless Thy people."
—Deut. xxvi. 14, 15.

Remember, "where Providence calls you, the God of Providence will be with you and preserve you. 'I will guide thee with Mine eye.' A blessed promise. And it is for you—only believe."

Anon.

NOVEMBER 10.

"He that hath clean hands and a pure heart, he shall receive a blessing from the Lord."—Ps. xxiv. 4, 5.

"Seek strength for to-day, to practice forbearance, and to scatter kind words and loving deeds."

For,

"The tissues of the life to be, we weave with colors all our own,

And in the field of destiny, we reap as we have sown."

Whittier.

NOVEMBER II.

"The Lord hath sworn in truth, I will abundantly bless."—Ps. cxxxii. 11, 15.

"There are blessed hopes, but there are also fears; and not upon this side of time may the blessed promise, 'at evening time it shall be light,' find its fulfilment.

"Yet it is true; if not in this world, then in a better.

"Remember, it is but a single step from the darkness of death into the blessed light of immortality."

Boyd.

NOVEMBER 12.

"In that day shall there be a highway, even a blessing,"—ISA. xix. 23, 24.

"Tribulation is the King's highway, and yet that highway is paved with love."

Macduff.

"Sheltered by the Rock, Christ, we are entirely safe. Remember, in every trying hour pray to be led to this Rock. There is perfect safety. He is unchangeable; the same yesterday, to-day, and forever."

Bickersteth.

NOVEMBER 13.

"I bowed down my head and worshipped the Lord, and blessed the Lord God."—GEN. xxiv. 26, 27.

"God hath made all things for His elect, and His elect for Himself. All is yours, and you are Christ's. I will therefore serve my God in all things, myself in nothing."

Anon.

NOVEMBER 14.

"I am the Lord your God; I will command my blessing upon you."—LEV. XXV. 17, 21.

Remember; Christ came to bless. "O, Thou blessed Model of self-forgetting love! Thou who didst come into the world, not to be ministered unto, but to minister. Thee will we gaze on. Thee will we love, until we learn to love our fellow-men with a love which in its solicitude for them, forgets its own affliction."

Tholuck.

NOVEMBER 15.

"Thus saith the Lord, There shall be showers of blessings."—EZEK. xxxiv. 26.

"It was because He loved us, that God sent our Saviour to die for us. Let us believe and live. God rejoices to bless and give good things to them that ask Him; and when we go to ask the least thing, the good part in Christ, we may be as sure that He will give it to us, as the child that runs confidently to a mother's arms can be sure of a mother's care."

Boyd.

NOVEMBER 16.

"Blessed is the man unto whom the Lord imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile."—Ps. xxxii. 2.

"When the love of Christ is uppermost, we count all things but loss for the blessedness He has given; and for the sake of promoting His glory, we can rejoice in tribulation, and even desire length of days."

Mrs. Hare.

NOVEMBER 17.

"Ye shall serve the Lord thy God, and He shall bless thy bread and thy water."—Ex. xxiii. 25.

"If we are sincere in our endeavors to seek after the right way, God surely knows, and in His own good time He will assist and strengthen us in every good work, and give us that blessed hope which will brighten every day."

Anon.

NOVEMBER 18.

"I will make an everlasting covenant with thee, which the Lord hath blessed."—ISA. lxi. 8, 9.

"Ponder that covenant blessed by God, and remember Jesus is God: 'I and My Father are one.' God ever living and ever present, the giver of temporal and of spiritual blessings; the guide and friend of man, both in his outward and his inward life. And this God makes a blessed covenant with us."

Liddon.

NOVEMBER 19.

"Blessings are upon the head of the just."—Prov. x. 6.

"Earnestly pray to the blessed Saviour to give you grace to cast away the works of darkness, and to put on the armor of Light, and He will answer your prayer, because He said, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive. Let those blessed words give you confidence."

Anon.

NOVEMBER 20.

"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners."—Ps. i. 1.

"Is this blessing yours? Can you from your heart pray, 'Make me to go in the paths of Thy commandments, for therein do I delight'?

"Therein do I delight. It is the way of my choice, of my joy; and yet, make me to go in it. Pray for the confirmation of God's Word in its truth, preciousness, and power. Stablish Thy Word unto Thy servant who is devoted to Thy fear."

Can you thus pray?

Raleigh.

NOVEMBER 21.

"Bless me, even me also, O Lord."—GEN. xxvii. 38.

"Though I have no grace, yet behold at Thy word I come for grace; though I have no Christ, yet I come for Christ. If I am not Thy child, may I not be made Thy child? Hast Thou not a child's blessing to bestow upon me? Hear, Lord, send me not away without a blessing."

Alleine.

NOVEMBER 22.

"Where is the blessedness?"-GAL. iv. 15.

"Heaven; for 'Death is yours.' Blessed souls, when you come to the other shore and see the light, the love, the joy, the rest, the glory, you will then understand what this meaneth—'Death is yours.'

"When by the Spirit of wisdom and revelation your eyes are opened, then you will know what is the blessed hope of His calling, what the riches of the glory of His inheritance."

Anon.

NOVEMBER 23.

"Blessed be Thou which hast kept me."—
I SAM. XXV. 33.

"O love the Lord, all ye His saints. O bless the Lord, all ye His saints. He that is mighty hath done for you great things. Consider thou art taken into blessedness. Thou wert with the prodigal. But now God is thine own; all that He is, all that He has is thine. Here is thy portion; know it for thy good, take it for thine own; live upon it, and live up to it."

Alleine.

NOVEMBER 24.

"Being reviled, we bless."—I COR. iv. 12.

Blessed are they who keep His commandments. And Christ commanded us to love.

"Heavenly love centres no lower than Heaven itself. If love is a beam, it is only as it stands in reference to the Sun; if it love the creature, it is only as it is a step to advance nearer to God. Lord, I would not care for Heaven were it not for Thee: neither would I love myself were I not in Thee."

Divine Breathings.

NOVEMBER 25.

"Blessed is every one that feareth the Lord. Happy shalt thou be, and it shall be well with thee."—Ps. cxxviii. 1, 2.

A blessed thing it is to die here, that we may live There. "And nothing is so sure as death, and nothing so uncertain as the time. I may be too old to live; I can never be too young to die. I will therefore live every hour, as if I were to die the next."

Anon.

NOVEMBER 26.

"Bless the Lord for the good which He hath given thee."—DEUT. viii, 10,

A faithful man shall abound with blessings, even fellowship with the Lord of blessings. "It is this fellowship which it is the believer's privilege to enjoy. Give Him, then, no divided heart; offer no half service. Out of His blessed fulness He proffers the strength to follow Him fully."

Anna Shipton.

NOVEMBER 27.

"The Lord bless thee, and keep thee."—NUM. vi. 24.

"How blest to all Thy followers, Lord, the road
By which Thou leadest them on; yet oft how
strange!

But Thou in all dost seek our highest good!

For Truth were true no longer, couldst Thou change.

Though crooked seem the paths, yet are they straight,

By which Thou draw'st Thy children up to Thee! And passing wonders by the way they see, And learn at last to own Thee wise and great."

Anon.

NOVEMBER 28.

"Bless and curse not."-Rom. xii. 14.

"Though you suffer for righteousness' sake, yet are ye, and ye shall be blessed. Here is blended the fundamental tone of promise and consolation. Fear ye not, let then the light which is in you shine forth!"

Stier.

NOVEMBER 29.

"The Lord shall bless thee, and thou shalt see the good all the days of thy life."—Ps. cxxviii. 5.

"Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and then you have the promise that God will add all temporal blessing needed for this life. And yet, remember it is written, blessed be God, as many as He loves He chastens, but His rod and staff support. And it is a rod of blessing, a blessed staff; lean on it, and the Everlasting Arms will uphold you."

Mrs. Bethune.

NOVEMBER 30.

"Blessed is the man Thou choosest and causest to approach unto Thee."—Ps. lxv. 4.

Remember, "the secret of the Lord is with them that fear Him; and He will show them His covenant." "Even the hidden wisdom, the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, that ye may know what is the Hope of His calling, and what the riches of the glory of His inheritance."

Holy Bible.

DECEMBER I.

"Saith the Lord, in blessing I will bless thee."
—GEN. xxii. 17.

"Always a blessing, for, blessed be His name, He doth give to us to taste much sweetness in affliction, helping us to see that to depend simply on the blessed promise of a faithful, covenant-keeping God is the true and only way of obtaining peace, comfort, and stead-fastness of heart."

Mrs. Hawkes.

DECEMBER 2.

"I will not let Thee go, except Thou bless me."

—GEN. XXXII. 26.

"Blessed be His name, through assisting grace, the surest way to confidence is to say to Him in prayer, with all humility and self-renunciation, 'I will not let Thee go, except Thou bless me.'

"Let no day pass without, like Jacob, wrestling for some satisfying taste that the Lord is gracious; and, like Jacob, you will assuredly prevail, and your faith will be enlarged and confirmed."

DECEMBER 3.

"Blessed are they that are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb."—Rev. xix. 9.

"Ah, if that blessing is ours, then will be our jubilee, when the reception of the guests will be, 'Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.'"

Matt. xxv. 21.

"Eat, O friends; drink you; drink abundantly, O beloved."

Cant. v. I.

DECEMBER 4.

"Such as be blessed of Him shall inherit."—Ps. xxxvii. 22.

"Inherit; take it with its old meaning, 'possess or to come into possession of.' 'The wise shall inherit glory.' 'He that overcometh shall inherit all things.' 'I will be his God, and he shall be my son.'

"Those whose expectations are thus from God can but faintly begin to imagine the riches of their inheritance, and there can be no disappointment about it—the Word is sure."

Anna Warner.

DECEMBER 5.

"Blessed be God, for He is plenteous in mercy, and a very present help in time of trouble."—Ps. lxxxvi. 5.

"A mind kept through grace is in peace; faith is upholding even in deepest trial; faith is given to rest in the blessed Saviour's care even as a child in the arms of a mother. The sacrifice of a broken heart God will not despise. Bring your sorrow, whatever it be, and lay it on the golden altar which purifies and sanctifies every gift, even the all-prevailing name of Jesus."

Anon.

DECEMBER 6.

"Thou preventest with the blessings of goodness."—Ps. xxi. 3.

"Not only are God's blessings new every morning, but His compassions 'fail not.' He is, indeed, 'very pitiful and of tender mercy,' and although you may grieve Him day by day by your waywardness, yet He will bring you back to His side. His loving Voice will recall you; He will say, 'Come unto me, O weary and heavy-laden.'"

Sunshine and Starlight.

DECEMBER 7.

"The wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all unrighteousness of men, who change the truth of God into a lie, and worship and serve the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed forever."—ROM i. 18, 25.

"Remember, you must choose whom you will serve. You can not serve God and Mammon. You can not be a friend of Christ and a friend of the world at the same time.

"The way is narrow and rough, and it is no use saying it is not; but depend on it, there can be no saving religion without sacrifices and self-denial."

Rvle.

DECEMBER 8.

"I will extol Thee, my God, O King; and I will bless Thy name forever and ever."—Ps. cxlv. 1.

"The spirit which is conscious of love to God, thus carries within it its own assurance of immortality.

"Do you know this assurance?

"If we rest on the Lord's faithful Word, we may justly look to Him for help; nor will He let us look in vain."

DECEMBER 9.

"The Lord commanded the blessing."—Ps. cxxxiii. 3.

"Remember, the 133d Psalm is an illustration of the blessings of unity. It tells of the grace which lights upon and blesses souls through a common priesthood and common ordinances.

"Behold how good and how pleasant the dwelling of brothers all at unity. Behold, bless ye the Lord, all ye servants of the Lord. Lift up your hands in holiness, and bless ye the Lord."

7. Alexander.

DECEMBER 10.

"Behold I set before you this day a blessing.
—Deut. xi. 26.

Think of God's store-house of blessings.

"Its entrance gate opening to the plea, 'Have mercy upon me, O God,' and overarched with the assurance of acceptance through Christ.

"Through Christ—that for all ages is the chart of the thorny and yet blessed path that leads from 'death unto life.'

"Is that chart the guide you follow these days of your earthly journey? It leads from earth to heaven."

DECEMBER II.

"The Lord liveth, and blessed is my Rock, and the God of my salvation."—2 SAM. xxii. 47.

"David's deliverance taught him to know a living God, swift to hear, active to help.

"Ask God that you too may have this blessed conviction that you have a Friend mighty to help in every hour of need, and your song like David's will be,

"'Therefore will I give thanks to Thee among the nations, O Jehovah, and to Thy name will I strike the harp.'"

Alexander Maclaren.

DECEMBER 12.

"Blessed be the glory of the Lord."—EZEK.

Remember, "God made promise, saying, 'Surely blessing I will bless you.'

"O my soul, what canst thou desire beyond this? Ask whatsoever thou wilt in the name of Jesus, and in the faith of His holy Word, and if it be for the glory of God, and the real good of thy soul, thou shalt have thy request granted."

DECEMBER 13.

"He blessed him."—GEN. xxxii. 29.

"Christ came to bless; again and again He cries, Blessed are ye, and the blessedness goes ever progressively, increasing along the way which the Saviour points out; and if we continue walking in that way, we become more and more capable of receiving that blessedness."

Stier.

DECEMBER 14.

"It shall be well with thee. Behold thus shall the man be blessed that feareth the Lord."—Ps. cxxviii. 2, 4.

"O let the blessing of the Lord rest upon me, and preserve my going out and my coming in; and never leave me, nor forsake me, O Lord, but be my God and guide this day, and all my days, unto the Home where I must take up my abode and dwell forever."

Hannah More.

DECEMBER 15.

- "Blessed is he that watcheth."—REV. xvi. 15.
- "O Faithful Saviour, help us to hear Thy Voice saying, 'Watch and pray.'
- "Grant us this blessing, and that we may not rely on our own strength or good intentions, but be diligent in prayer for obtaining Thy succor, and by Thy strength may we become conquerors over evil."

Rambach.

DECEMBER 16.

- "Hark! what blessed song is this?
- "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come."—REV. iv. 8.
- "Blessing, honor, peace, and glory be unto Him that sitteth on the throne, and to the Lamb forever."—REV. v. 13.
- "May we hope, when life here glides into life There, to join in this hallelujah to our Creator's glory?
- "Yes; for His word to us is, 'Come in, thou blessed of the Lord; wherefore standest thou without?'—GEN. XXIV. 31."

DECEMBER 17.

"Blessed are the poor in spirit."-MATT. v. 3.

"Simple and easy this condition of blessedness runs, and yet it is hard enough, alas! to the pride of nature.

"But as soon as the kingdom of Heaven begins to sink in the needy soul awakened to a sincere consciousness of its poverty, then the germ of the peace of God enters, and the poverty of spirit is transformed into most blessed humility."

Lange.

DECEMBER 18.

"Saith the Lord God, I am their inheritance," and "cause the blessing to rest in thine house."
—EZEK. xliv. 27-30.

"How great a God is our God! How powerful and tender a friend is our Redeemer! He hath done all things well, He hath spoken peace to our souls; we sail indeed upon a rough sea, but nothing can harm us while the Ruler of the storm is with us, and sheds from behind the cloud which hides Him from the world, the consolations of His blessed grace and love."

Cunningham.

DECEMBER 19.

"Ponder all the words of the law, the blessings and cursings."—JOSH. viii. 34.

"Blessings—chief among their number, prayer—and remember, God lades the wings of private prayer with the sweetest, choicest blessings. Ah! how often has God at the beginning of private prayer spoken peace, and filled the soul with light and joy."

Anon.

DECEMBER 20.

"Bless thyself in the God of Truth."—Is.

Remember, "if He, our Lord, may but get the smallest portion of honor and glory to His blessed name through our afflictions, surely they will prove our greatest blessings."

Memoir of Mrs. Hawkes.

DECEMBER 21.

"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits."—Ps. ciii. 2.

"Blessed be God for Jesus Christ. Blessed be Jesus Christ for the gift of Himself, and for the gift of that living faith which unites the soul to Him, our living head.

"Glory, honor, and praise be unto Him, now and ever."

Anon.

DECEMBER 22.

"Blessed are they that do His commandments, that they may have right to the tree of Life, and may enter in through the gate into the city."—REV. xxii. 14.

"'Our rejoicing is this, the testimony of our conscience.' The words have the charm of life in them; they tell us how a man lived, and how we may live.

"For, this is our rejoicing as Christians—the testimony of conscience. It is the only clock that points to the moral time of day. Go by it. Do not look at the clock which rules another's conscience, but 'Drink water out of thine own cistern, and running water out of thine own well. Let thine own fountain be blessed."

Raleigh.

DECEMBER 23.

"Blessed are the peace-makers: for they shall be called sons of God."—MATT. v. 9.

"This benediction is seen in its true light by comparison with the angelic hymn, 'On earth peace, among men of well-pleasing.'—LUKE ii. 14.

"The peace of which Christ speaks is that of reunited humanity; the blessing of sonship is for those who, quickened by God's Spirit, help to realize on earth that inward brotherhood of which He has given the foundation and the pledge."

Westcott.

DECEMBER 24.

"Blessed be the king that cometh in the name of the Lord."—LUKE xix. 38.

"May Christmas stream in on you with such a bright joy and blessing and hope, as to leave no room for the shadows of earth.

"Take in fresh courage to go forward from grace to grace, from glory to glory. We hang back too much in our own nothingness instead of having a loving confidence in the power of the Holy Ghost to re-create us in Christ Jesus."

H. Monsell.

DECEMBER 25.

"Hosanna to the Son of David. Blessed is He. Hosanna in the Highest."—MATT. xxi. 9.

"God bless you, and give you a ray of the heavenly gladness that thrilled through the angelic host as they worshipped and adored the infant Jesus; and may the coming year be a season of union with an Incarnate God, so close, so intimate, so endearing that the power of the indwelling may move your whole life into oneness with Him, and perfect you for the work for which He calls you."

Anon.

DECEMBER 26.

Ask God to make Asher's blessing your blessing. "Thy shoes shall be iron and brass; and as thy days, so shall thy strength be."—DEUT. xxxiii. 25.

"Blessed promise, the fulness of God in Christ—out of which we have received, will continue the fulness of God in Christ on the day of our death too, if only we now seek the grace to live by it, be it peace, or strength, or watchfulness, or faith, or prayer, or whatever else in the great circle of the gracious blessings of God. We need have no fear, it will be given even unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord."

Raleigh.

DECEMBER 27.

"Christ came, who is over all, God blessed forever."—ROMANS ix. 5.

Let this be a blessed day to you.

"Remember, from Heaven Christ sends down a blessing. He communicates His nature to us, and so we learn how we are to live, and how we are to let Him live in us; and we see somewhat of what we might be if we had faith, and hope, and love, to bear the weight of the glory."

H. Monsell.

DECEMBER 28.

"A good blessing."-Prov. xxiv. 25.

"What a blessing is the spiritual telegraphy of prayer! We never pray alone, but encircled by those whose wants are dear to us, and our prayers are buoyed up by the wants and aspirations of those who mingle in them.

"It is a privilege to go to God with the importance which linking others' wants to ours gives to our petitions."

C. T. Collins.

DECEMBER 29.

"Blessed be the God of all comfort, who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God."—2 COR. i. 3-4.

"Recall the thankfulness that has filled your heart when God has opened His hand and shed on you some great blessing, and ask yourself, 'Did I remember God had done this for me, just to make me a fitter and more transparent medium through which He might send His comfort to other men?'"

Phillips Brooks.

DECEMBER 30.

"Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanks-giving, and honor, and power, and might be with you forever and ever. Amen."—REV. vii. 12.

"Oh, how blessed all the inner circles of Love are; they all rise up and find their centre in Christ, and shed down upon us rays of His own Divine Love and gladness. If we dwelt more in it we should ascend more quickly to Him, and He would descend upon us with the full blessedness of His own loving Presence."

DECEMBER 31.

"Receive blessings from the Lord."—Ps. xxiv. 5.

"Remember, both death and sleep are blessed mysteries of life. It is of little consequence what time the angel of life opens the door of death for us; the supreme concern for us is whether our hearts shall be pure, and our souls strong in grace to rejoice in the vision of the Everlasting Day. Is the Lord Christ who is the resurrection and the life standing before us now with His blessing at the gate of the new year?

"With His greeting,—which is a glad Voice beyond time, and death,—ah! if we hear that, then our hearts are lifted above the flood of years here."

Newman Smyth.











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